Expanding performing arts programming is one of the initiatives at the Jewish Community Center introduced by new Director Michael Rawl. Read more about Mr. Rawl on page 24, and see January’s list of JCC activities on pages 12-13.

Akiva’ Academy’s kindergarteners perform at the school’s annual Hanukkah program.

Michael Freund, center, the founder of Shavei Israel, welcomes young Bnei Menashe to Israel. The children, from India, are considered descendents of one of the Ten Lost Tribes of Israel. Learn more on page 10.

The staff of the Jewish Journal wishes its readers a bright, peaceful, and healthy 2017.
AJC statement on nomination of Rex Tillerson as U.S. secretary of state

December 13, 2016 – New York – AJC issued the following statement upon the announcement by President-elect Trump that he will nominate ExxonMobil CEO Rex Tillerson as Secretary of State:

AJC, which advocates for American values and Jewish community concerns in the United States and across the globe, and which maintains active relations with well over 100 countries and a number of multilateral institutions, looks forward to working with the Trump administration’s Secretary of State, as we have with previous Secretaries for more than a century.

Mr. Tillerson has distinguished himself in the management of one of the world’s premier corporations. At the same time, we are unfamiliar with his larger geopolitical view of the world and America’s place in it. As such, both before and during his Senate confirmation process, we will be particularly interested in his perspectives on a number of key issues, among them:

U.S.-Israel relations

Would Mr. Tillerson continue the bipartisan tradition of support for and mutually beneficial cooperation with the State of Israel, America’s democratic and reliable Middle East ally, which faces profound security threats, ongoing attacks on its legitimacy in international forums, and repeated Palestinian refusals for an enduring two-state peace agreement?

Iran

Would Mr. Tillerson, recognizing the danger posed by Iran to U.S. interests and allies in the Middle East and around the world, including the terror threat posed by the Iranian proxy Hezbollah, intensify U.S. efforts to confront the theocratic regime’s hegemonic ambitions and seek to ensure that Iran does not violate any of its treaty obligations regarding its nuclear program?

Transatlantic relations

America’s allies, trading partners and sister democracies in Europe have expressed concern about the new Administration’s commitment to NATO, its policies toward an increasingly aggressive Russia that has violated Ukrainian sovereignty and challenged European cohesion, and its attitude toward the European Union as a defender of common values, common security concerns, and expanded trade. We look forward to hearing Mr. Tillerson’s thinking on these critical issues.

Alliances

America’s international relations are built on a series of partnerships with valued friends and allies that extend beyond Europe and the Middle East, including key nations in Asia, such as Japan and South Korea, with which we have security treaties, our immediate neighbors Canada and Mexico, and other democratic nations with long-standing strategic, diplomatic, economic, and cultural links to our own country. In his view of the world, how does Mr. Tillerson regard these nations and the importance of our relations with them?

Human rights

America’s essential and respected international leadership is a product not only of military might, but also its adherence to such core principles as the sanctity of universal human rights. American resolve, creativity, and moral force — in addition to other tools at our nation’s disposal — help shape a peaceful and lawful world able to stand up to oppressors and to promulgators of racism, anti-Semitism, and other bigotries. We will be eager to learn about Mr. Tillerson’s perspective on this important matter.

Extremism

Violent radical Islam, a perversion of one of the world’s great religious traditions, poses an urgent global threat. Confronting and defeating it requires a comprehensive strategy, close coordination with a wide range of countries and organizations, and, in particular, the active partnership of like-minded Muslim communities and Muslim-majority allies. We shall hope to better understand Mr. Tillerson’s views on this urgent security challenge.

Aleppo needs action, not words

By Steven B. Nasatir

(JTA) — Aleppo, one of the world’s oldest cities and Syria’s largest metropolis, is synonymous with one of humanity’s cruelest conflicts — now surpassing the siege of Sarajevo as the deadliest and longest-running battle for a city in our time.

With an estimated 31,000 deaths, the battle for Aleppo has taken more than double the lives lost in Sarajevo. With total Syrian civilian deaths over the past five years reportedly totaling some 450,000, including 50,000 children, the latest atrocities in Aleppo write another dreadful lament in the 21st-century dirge of savagery and indifference.

The world has failed to stop the carnage and the suffering, let alone adequately condemn it. Witness the morally bankrupt record of the U.N. General Assembly, which singled out Israel 20 times — and Syria just once — in 2016. Ironically this comes at a time when the people and government of Israel not only have spoken out, but have contributed significantly to aid Syrian victims, despite the history of enmity between the two countries.

In Israel, in Chicago, and in Jewish communities and federations elsewhere, indifference to the suffering of innocents is not an option. Through our Aleppo Assistance Fund, members of our community have an opportunity to respond through a Jewish lens. Contributions go to the national American Jewish Coalition for Disaster Relief, of which our federation is a member. During the past three years, the coalition has provided nearly $2 million of humanitarian aid to Syrians, reaching hundreds of thousands of people with medical supplies and assistance, especially for women and children with severe medical conditions due to abuse, torture or mutilation, and worse.

Locally, during the past few years, our federation has fostered relationships and provided educational programs with key Chicago Syrian community organizations. Everyone recognizes that the humanitarian catastrophe transcends political differences. Both Jews and Syrians hope this shared humanitarian concern for innocent civilians can pave the way for improved relations. The Syrian community recognizes and sincerely appreciates the Jewish response to this crisis.

We are heartened but not surprised by these developments. The Israeli government and Israel Defense Forces -- most notably the IDF Medical Corps -- continue to aid wounded civilians in the field, transferring many to Israeli hospitals. In addition, Israelis have launched grassroots efforts, such as the Just Beyond the Border crowdfunding campaign, to send emergency supplies and other aid to children in Syria. We are inspired by their actions.

During this dark time, Hanukkah brings its distinct message of perseverance and hope. We have a special Jewish obligation to bring light. As individuals, we do this through tzedakah, righteous giving. We do this by helping to bring food, medical care, shelter and other forms of relief to victims of war, terrorism and natural disaster.

The Torah teaches that in any situation of human suffering there are three parties: the oppressed, the oppressors and the indifferent. The indifferent, those who stand on the sidelines with folded arms, are allies of the oppressors. Our deep Jewish memory of persecution compels us to heed the command of the Torah not to join the tribe of folded arms, not to stand silent while the blood of our fellow humans is shed.

At a time in our country and community of overheated political rhetoric coming from all sides, with calls to federations for public statements on all sorts of issues, it is important that we come forward and announce: Enough with requests for political statements that divide a community — more important is to watch what we do. Doing for others — together — is the foundation of a strong and united community. Especially now, as we prepare to celebrate Hanukkah, we know that to ease someone’s suffering brings light and turns away evil.

(Steven B. Nasatir is president of the Jewish United Fund/Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago.)
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Candle-Lighting Times

Shabbat
December 30 4:45 p.m.
January 6 4:52 p.m.
January 13 4:59 p.m.
January 20 5:07 p.m.
January 27 5:16 p.m.
February 3 5:24 p.m.

Hanukkah
December 27 Fourth candle
December 28 Fifth candle
December 29 Sixth candle
December 30 Seventh candle
(before lighting Shabbat candles)
December 31 Eighth candle

About the Jewish Journal Monthly Magazine

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JJMM Mission Statement

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

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

Jan. 15 is the deadline for articles and ads for the Feb. 2017 issue.
Rabbinical Assembly ousts rabbi for performing mixed marriages

By Ben Sales

NEW YORK (JTA) – Conservative Rabbi Seymour Rosenbloom has been expelled from the Rabbinical Assembly, the movement’s rabbis’ association, for performing interfaith weddings.

An ordained Conservative rabbi for 44 years, Rosenbloom was expelled last month by unanimous vote, with abstentions, after a hearing of the R.A.’s Executive Council. Since 1972, the Conservative movement has prohibited its rabbis from officiating at or even attending intermarriages.

Rosenbloom told JTA a council member suggested he might be able to retain his membership in exchange for a promise not to perform any more intermarriages. Rosenbloom declined the offer.

“I don't have animus toward the R.A.,” Rosenbloom told JTA. “It's a futile policy, a policy that will eventually be overturned because the trend of history is against it. I have no bitterness… I don't feel shunned or like an outcast.”

Rosenbloom, 72, is the retired rabbi of Congregation Adath Jeshurun, a 158-year-old synagogue near Philadelphia. He officiated at his first intermarriage, between his stepdaughter and her fiancé, shortly after retiring in the summer of 2014. Since then, he has performed four additional intermarriages and has plans to conduct two more.

The R.A. wouldn’t comment on Rosenbloom’s expulsion, but its executive vice president, Rabbi Julie Schonfeld, said the movement is constantly discussing how to approach the growing number of marriages involving Jews and non-Jews. Still, she said, the Conservative movement’s fealty to halacha, or Jewish law, mandates a ban on performing intermarriages.

Reform and Reconstructionist rabbis are allowed to perform intermarriages, while Orthodox rabbis, also citing Jewish law, do not.

“We are a halachic movement and Judaism envisions the marriage cere-

(Continued on page 6)
Western Galilee visit to Budapest brings immediate medical impact

By Simon Griver

The recent visit to Budapest by a delegation of the Western Galilee’s PartnershiptoGether’s (P2G) Medical Task Force has produced impressive results.

“The impact has been immediate and much bigger than we could have imagined,” says Dr. Arie Eisenman, Head of Internal Medicine in the Emergency Department of the Galilee Medical Center, and co-chair of P2G’s Medical Task Force. “The Hungarians have a large appetite for cooperation and we have already hosted a wide range of reciprocal visits from professionals, academics and exchange students and sent one of our doctors to Budapest to speak about handling mass casualty incidents.”

Dr. Eisenman travelled to Budapest in May for introductory meetings with medical personnel along with Aya Kipershlak, the GMC’s International Affairs Department Director and P2G Western Galilee Director Judy Yuda. Within the framework of the Jewish Agency’s P2G, the Western Galilee is partnered with

the 14 U.S. Jewish Federation communities of the Central Area Consortium (including the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation) as well as Budapest.

“The aim of the visit was to build a structured partnership between the medical professionals of the GMC and Budapest,” explains Judy Yuda. “We want to build a similar partnership to the ones that we have already built between the GMC and their medical colleagues in our partnership communities in the US. We succeeded in Hungary beyond our expectations.”

Since the delegation visited Budapest, there has been a constant stream of Hungarian professionals visiting the Western Galilee. These include social workers from the Budapest University of Jewish Studies, a senior official from the Budapest ambulance services, exchange medical students, and executives from a private hospital in Budapest.

“We were surprised to find such a strong and cohesive Jewish community,” recounts Aya Kipershlak. “They were thirsty not only for a professional partnership but also to strengthen their Jewish community and identity through a strong connection with Israel.”

In Budapest, Dr. Eisenman gave a lecture on the assistance that GMC is providing for Syrians injured in the civil war. There are currently 100 injured Syrians being treated in the hospital and since the start of the conflict more than 2,000 Syrian have been treated. “Those we treat are members of various militias and I am sure that many of them are organizations not very sympathetic to Israel but it is our policy not to ask questions about their background. They are injured and need medical treatment.”

As with most Diaspora Jewish communities, many members of the Budapest Jewish community work in the medical profession, some of them in senior positions.

Dr. Eisenman’s lecture drew the attention of the Jewish deputy director of the military hospital in Budapest, which also houses NATO’s medical headquarters. As a result an invitation was extended by NATO’s MASCAL (mass casualty) department to send one of their doctors to lecture on pre-hospital incident management and in-hospital major incident management based on their real-life experiences.

Dr. Yoav Hoffmann of the GMC’s Pediatric Intensive Care Department who in a previous position played a major role in 2006 in treating the wounded from the Second Lebanon War was chosen to travel to Budapest. “It was a thrilling experience,” he said. “I spoke of my experiences in mass casualty treatment during the Second Lebanon War. I spoke alongside a Belgian doctor and a French doctor who had treated the injured in the aftermath of the Bataclan massacre in Paris last year.”

With the partnership now firmly established, “More trips to Budapest are planned by GMC staff and more visits from Hungary by medical professionals are expected.

GMC was the first hospital in Israel to build an underground hospital enabling it to provide continuous safe and secure care to patients in the event of warfare. It is now the model for medical institutions nationwide.

The GMC has provided medical care for more than 1,000 Syrian casualties over the last three plus years, twenty-five percent of whom were women and children under the age of eighteen.
Enjoy the comfort of spicy Mexican-inspired cholent

By Aly Walansky

(The Nosher via JTA) — I grew up in a traditional Jewish home eating my mom’s cholent, which had been my grandma’s recipe. It was always one of my favorite meals; I often chose it for birthday dinners and special occasions.

When I moved out, I took the recipe with me — but decided it was time to modernize it a bit and make it my own. I’ve always loved food packed with flavor, and I’m a big fan of Mexican food, so I decided to take the family cholent recipe and reimagine it with influences of carne asada or a rustic chili. The result is Mexican cholent. It’s spicy and comforting, and a favorite whenever I have friends over. I often pair it with a scoop of guacamole to cool down the heat (but you can always make it less spicy by cutting down on the chilies in adobo sauce or halving the taco seasoning — be bold enough!).

Ingredients:

2-pound brisket, fat trimmed (or you can use 4 marrow bones plus 1 pound cubed beef stew)
1 onion, diced
3 garlic cloves, minced
2 Yukon Gold potatoes, peeled and chopped
1 16-ounce bag cholent bean mix OR 2 cups pearl barley and 1 cup dry red kidney beans, soaked in 2 cups warm water for 10 minutes
1 7-ounce can diced green chilies
2-3 tablespoons taco seasoning (or more to taste)
1 heaping tablespoon chipotle pepper in adobo sauce (or more to taste)
32-ounce vegetable broth
1 cup brussel sprouts, cut in half (optional)
Fresh cilantro, guacamole or jalapenos for serving

Directions:

Spray the inside of your slow cooker with cooking spray.
Add brisket. (You can also substitute the marrow bones and cubed beef stew, or beef flanken.)
Add onion, garlic, potatoes, canned chilies, chipotle in adobo, taco seasoning, beans (or pearl barley plus red kidney beans) and enough vegetable stock to cover. Stir gently to make sure everything is mixed. Add brussel sprouts (optional).
Set slow cooker for 8 hours on low. After 4 hours, check and add more vegetable stock (or water) if it looks too dry. Add salt and pepper to taste.
Serve with fresh cilantro, guacamole or thin slices of jalapeno.

(Aly Walansky is a writer and editor with a decade of experience in the lifestyles realm, and contributes to dozens of major publications regularly.)

The Nosher food blog offers a dazzling array of new and classic Jewish recipes and food news, from Europe to Yemen, from challah to shakshuka and beyond. Check it out at www.TheNosher.com.

Interfaith marriages (cont’d from p. 6)

Interfaith marriage as taking place between two Jewish people,” she told JTA. “Through the lens and the vehicles offered by Jewish law and tradition, that’s the avenue that’s open to us in terms of a Jewish matrimonial ritual.”

By performing mixed marriages, Rosenbloom feels like he’s simply acknowledging reality. The Pew Research Center’s 2013 study of American Jews found that the intermarriage rate among non-Orthodox Jews since 2005 rose to 71 percent. And a recent study from Brandeis University found that interfaith couples married only by a rabbi are significantly more likely to raise their children Jewish than those married by no rabbi or clergy of different faiths.

“We’re isolating ourselves from our congregants at precisely the time they need us and want us most,” Rosenbloom said. “For many of these couples, once we say no to the wedding, it’s very hard for them to overcome that. The experience of rejection is far too great to even consider being part of the congregation.”

Expulsion from the R.A., a 1,700-member body that places rabbis in congregations and sets their professional standards, is a relatively rare event. Because Rosenbloom is retired, the expulsion will have little practical effect on him.
Who Is the Giver?

By Shmuel Strauss*

It wasn’t easy. Nothing is ever easy for this child. Avi* was born with cerebral palsy and suffers from other issues also. His life is complicated, to say the least. Avi had an appointment at the clinic and I was the Ezer Mizion driver assigned to take him.

Another child would simply hop into the family car and buckle himself up. But not Avi. He needs to be transported with an Ezer Mizion vehicle especially outfitted for the disabled. He was strapped into an adjustable wheelchair with back support to counteract his spasms and prevent his accidentally flying out of the chair, certainly a dangerous situation in a moving vehicle. I positioned him facing backwards so that the inertia of a short stop will be absorbed by the sturdy back of the seat, not the much weaker seat belt.

More minor adjustments. I did my best to provide a comfortable, safe ride for this child, whose condition makes him dependent on others to provide for his every need.

Or so I thought. It was only moments later that I discovered how much he has achieved on his own and is able to give to others.

He was accompanied by his mother, understandably, has a difficult life. In addition to the usual household tasks of every mother, it is she who must see to his feeding, his dressing, his personal care. It is she who must regulate his activities providing the balance between the satisfaction of accomplishments and the frustration that accompanies a goal too difficult to meet. Avi’s needs – and there are so many – color her every moment.

And so it is no surprise that a minor difficulty can sometimes be just too much to handle. Today it was a head cold. She hadn’t been feeling well yesterday. The head cold and fever had kept her up most of the night. She sat on the ambulance bench near her son bemoaning her plight.

Before I could respond with some soothing words, her son offered his own brand of encouragement. Speaking is so difficult for him but he exerted himself to the maximum, straining his muscles to enunciate the syllables properly:

EzerEeee-mm-mmmmmmmmm-a Evvvvv-vv-rrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrr...
Start the year with El Emeth

The El Emeth Board of Directors will hold its monthly meeting on Tuesday evening, January 3 at the Synagogue at 7:30 pm.

“Jewelry Making 101” with Lori Szoke will take place at the Temple on Sunday afternoon, Jan. 8 from 1-3 p.m. Participants will learn how to string a beaded bracelet under Lori’s guidance. Cost is $20 per person which includes all materials and refreshments. R.S.V.P. with payment to the office by Jan. 4.

Sisterhood will hold an open board meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 10 at 10:45 a.m. There will not be a luncheon or program following the meeting. The next Sisterhood meeting with luncheon and program will be in March.

Celebrations: We will celebrate the 90th birthday of Florence Mirkin and the 70th birthday of Sam Kooperman at a luncheon following Shabbat morning services on Saturday, Jan. 14. R.S.V.P. to the office if you plan to attend. The luncheon is being sponsored by the Mirkin Family.

Brunch with the Rabbi will have its next session on Sunday, Jan. 15 at the Synagogue. A representative from the Jewish National Fund will give an update on how JNF is helping Israel recover from the recent wildfires. Come for minyan at 10 a.m. with brunch and the speaker beginning at 10:30 a.m. R.S.V.P. to the office by Jan. 12.

“Minyan, a Meal and a Movie” will take place on Saturday evening, Jan. 21. Minyan begins at 5:30 p.m. with dinner at 6:15 p.m. After dinner the movie “Loving Leah” will be shown. The film tells the story of a young widowed Jewish woman whose late husband’s unobservant brother is required to marry her, to fulfill the Jewish custom of Yibbum. Their “pretend” marriage evolves as they both gain a greater appreciation for each other’s worlds. Paid reservations for the evening are due into the office by Jan. 18.

The Rabbi Samuel Meyer annual Lecture will be held at El Emeth on Wednesday evening, Jan. 25 at 7 p.m. Guest speaker will be the Rev. Msgr. Michael Cariglio, Jr., Diocesan Tribunal, Rector of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Basilica in Youngstown. His topic will be “Did Mt. Sinai have an effect on Roman law and its effect on church law?” A dessert reception will follow the program. Reservations be appreciated by Jan. 23.

The monthly women’s Rosh Chodesh group will meet on Tuesday, Jan. 31, at 1:30 p.m. at Levy Gardens. Carol Gottesman will be the presenter and refreshments will be served. All women are invited to attend.

Daily minyan are held Sunday through Friday at 5:45 p.m. Saturday evening minyan in January are as follows: Saturday, Jan. 7 at 5:15 p.m., Jan. 14 and 21 at 5:30 p.m. and Jan. 28 at 5:45 p.m. Shabbat morning services begin at 9:30 a.m. and Friday morning minyan are at 7 a.m.

For information on cancellations in case of bad weather please call the office for a message on our answering machine, watch your email or tune in to local TV stations.

Visit us at Templeelemeth.org

Thank You Thank You Thank You

By Mary Lou Henneman

Thank you to all who donated books and purchased them at the annual JCC library book sale which was held Dec. 5 to 9. We received many treasures and were able to find them good homes. I am proud to announce we raised $280 to benefit our library.

On a personal note, I want to thank everyone at the JCC for making the last seven years I have served as librarian here very special. I have made many new friends and have learned so much. It has been my honor to have worked here, but I feel it is time to retire. My plans include visiting my two children and my grandchildren in Arizona and Nevada.

However, there is one thing to remember: once a friend, always a friend. Thank you.

At El Emeth's Hanukkah Happening, 14 children and their parents enjoyed a Hanukkah sing along (and dancing) led by Tirtza Kohan, a variety of Hanukkah crafts and latkes and Hanukkah cookies. From left: Terrie Anderson holding Shayna Wilschek, daughter Rachel Anderson Kay, and Rachel’s son Ethan.
El Emeth Sisterhood

By Mary Lou Finesilver

Sisterhood held a delightful lunch thanks to Kravitz’s on Dec. 13 during which time we played Bingo or tried, but the weather blew in a storm and we had to leave early. We did do the drawing for the gift baskets and I thank those that donated and congratulations to those that won.

Gift Baskets donated — a beautiful crocheted shawl by Jean Cole and won by Mark Vincent; Handel’s Gift basket donated by Nancy Wagner won by Mark Vincent; Moe’s Private Reserve Seasoning donated by Marshall Finesilver and won by Bob Pazol; Glass Menorah donated by Helen Passeil and won by Andrea Duval; $100 Gift basket donated by Sisterhood with ingredients for a pasta dinner, including roasted peppers made by Jean Cole was won by Stephen Sniderman.

Sisterhood announces with pleasure the Donor Honoree for 2017: Bobbie Berkowitz. Bobbie has been typing, coordinating and delivering Leagrams for Sisterhood for many, many years. I don't remember when she didn't take care of them. Thanks Bobbie and congratulations.

There will be no Sisterhood meeting in January, but if the weather cooperates there will be an open board meeting in February and the next meeting will be in March. We will be having lunch and touring the Youngstown Incubator.

Sisterhood is also, this year, donating five mezuzahs and scrolls to Akiva to replace those damaged or missing. It is our pleasure to be able to do this for our beautiful school.

We want to wish you all a happy, healthy and peaceful New Year.

Save time and money with our Gourmet-To-Go

Anytime, any occasion...always good!

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the Upstairs

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Ohev Tzedek – January, 2017

Upcoming

Ladies, keep your calendars open!
The women’s monthly Rosh Chodesh group will meet at Ohev Tzedek after Shabbat services on Saturday, Jan. 28.

OT Board Meeting

Wednesday, Jan. 11 at 7 p.m.

Torah Study for Christians

Rabbi Oresky and Father Balasko will continue to lead their monthly Torah Studies for Christians program Wednesday, Jan. 18 at Villa Maria from 1-2:30 p.m. This month’s topic is “The Book of Exodus and Civil Rights.”

Movie

Ohev Tzedek will host a showing of Leonardo DiCaprio’s climate change film, Before the Flood, on Sunday, Jan. 22 at 1:30 p.m.

Services

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

Adult Education

Please contact the Ohev Tzedek office if you are interested in any of these classes, or to suggest others.

Mussar: The study of middot (positive personality traits and characteristics) and the practice of perfecting them is an excellent way to improve all of our relationships. We meet Mondays at 1:30 pm to learn about, discuss, and actualize these important values and traits in our lives. Although we have been meeting since early November, feel free to join this class now, but do please register since we must know how many copies of materials to provide.

The Sh’mah and Its Blessings: Using Rabbi Lawrence Hoffman’s excellent volume in the My People’s Prayer Book series as a guide, we will explore this central prayer as an entry into exploration of tefilla, Jewish prayer. This class begins Monday night, Jan. 9 at 7 p.m.

Hebrew: A beginning Hebrew class is meeting on Sunday afternoons. Please call for details.

Jewish Composers and Musicians from Biblical to Classical to Pop: A treat for the mind and the ears: we will learn about Jewish composers and musicians from King David to Carole King and listen to and discuss their music. How, if at all, did their Jewishness influence their music? Feel free to suggest composers and musical selections when you register for the class. Time to be determined.

What’s So Funny About Being Jewish? A Study of Jewish Comedians: Who doesn’t have a favorite Jewish comedian? Why has comedy been a Jewish occupation for so long? How could a people with an often-tragic history produce such a large number of really funny people? We’ll watch and listen to comedy routines both old and new and search for common threads. Time to be determined.

Yiddish ‘God Bless America’ performed as New York’s first Hasidic female judge sworn in

(JTA) — Rachel Freier of Brooklyn officially became the first Hasidic woman to be sworn in as a judge in New York state.

Judge Freier, a mother of six and former lawyer who practiced commercial and residential estate law, was sworn in Thursday as the Civil Court judge in Kings County’s 5th judicial district, CBS reported.

She won the post in a September election. Her district encompasses the Brooklyn communities of Kensington, Sunset Park and Windsor Terrace, among others.

At the swearing-in ceremony, the Hasidic performer Lipa Schmeltzer performed the song “God Bless America” in Yiddish while wearing a white suit with colorful doodles, the vosizneias website reported.

Judge Freier, 51, who is also known as Ruchie, worked as a legal secretary and paralegal to support her husband’s Talmudic studies. She is a graduate of Touro College and Brooklyn Law School, and founded the all-female EMT agency Ezras Nashim.
Shavei Israel opens door to hidden Jews and members of lost tribes

When Laura Ben-David spoke about Shavei Israel opening doors for the Lost Tribes of Israel at a Shlichim-sponsored event last month, for her audience, she opened a window of knowledge about many thousands of people around the world whose traditions tell them they are Jewish — but they may never have even known that other Jews exist.

Upon hearing of Israel's founding in 1948, a group in northeast India said, “This is what we’ve been hoping for, waiting for.” They started writing to Israeli authorities at least as far back as Golda Meir, explained Ms. Ben-David. They said they were descendants of the tribe of Menashe (Manassah), one of the Ten Lost Tribes of Israel, and pleaded to return to their Jewish roots.

In 2002, one of their letters, addressed to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, landed on the desk of his Deputy Communication Director Michael Freund.

That letter ultimately led to Mr. Freund’s founding Shavei Israel.

Originally from Monsey, NY, Laura Ben-David, a writer and photographer, made Aliyah from Boca Raton, Florida in 2002. Two years ago she became Shavei Israel’s director of marketing. In that capacity, she was visiting the Youngstown area as part of a two-week trip to Jewish communities in the United States.

She said it is thought that the “lost tribes” migrated from the Assyrian empire along what later would be known as the silk route.

Although the last Torah scroll was destroyed more than 500 years ago, their traditions persisted orally. Ms. Ben-David said, “The details of the sacrifices they were making blew the Israeli rabbis away.”

Now, she said, “They’ve completely embraced modern Judaism, living their lives totally as Jews.”

For the most part, the hidden Jews of Poland are not interested in making Aliyah. Descendants of Holocaust victims, many had been brought up with every trace of their Jewishness hidden from them. It was only when they started to explore their past and some of the traditions they were unknowingly practicing that they wanted to learn more. Most important, Ms. Ben-David said, “They didn’t want their secret to die with them.”

Participants of a Shavei Israel heritage trip for “hidden Jews” of Poland to Israel, Purim 2016. Many are only now learning of their Jewish background.

Those who wish to learn more about the work of Shavei Israel should log on to the group’s website www.shavei.org.

Mazel Tov, Gon and Shai. Welcome to the world little girl.

Congratulations to Shlichim Gon and Shai Erex on the birth of their beautiful daughter, at St. Elizabeth’s Hospital in Boardman.
Ohio becomes 15th state to act against BDS movement

With Gov. John Kasich’s signature, Ohio becomes the latest state to stand up against the discrimination based on national origin inherent in efforts to boycott, divest, or sanction Israel. Howie Beigelman, executive director, Ohio Jewish Communities, said, “For that alone, we, representing Ohio’s Jewish communities statewide and a diverse coalition of business, academic, and faith leaders are profoundly grateful.

“But Ohio went a step further than anyone else,” he said. Included is an opportunity for positive investment by the state and county treasurers in certain foreign bonds — including Israel’s — allowing Ohio to stand with Israel in a meaningful way, helping to create even more business, trade, and research opportunities.

In overwhelming, bipartisan votes, HB 476 passed both the Ohio House and Senate. Cosponsored by Rep. Kirk Schuring (R-Canton), the majority floor leader, and Minority Leader Fred Strahorn (D-Dayton), it bans state contracts with businesses that boycott, divest or sanction countries with which we enjoy free trade, “including Israel.” The legislation now heads to Governor John Kasich.

**Strong ally**

“Israel is a strong ally of the United States and a valuable economic partner with the State of Ohio. It was an honor to sponsor legislation that reinforces Ohio’s commitment and support for the State of Israel,” said Representative Schuring.

“Yesterday, Ohio became the 14th state to pass anti-BDS legislation. This anti-discrimination legislation prevents BDS efforts from gaining a foothold within the state. This bill addresses our profound concern about discrimination against Israelis and Israeli businesses by those who oppose the right of the Jewish people to self-determination in our homeland. The state of Ohio joins other states who will not allow businesses that discriminate against Israel to conduct business with their state,” say IAN Executive Directors Geri Palast and Ethan Felson.

In addition, the bill includes language doubling (from one to two percent) the amount of funds the state treasurer or county treasurers may (but are by no means required to) invest in foreign bonds that meet certain criteria, including Israel Bonds. That measure was co-sponsored by Rep. Robert Sprague (R-Findlay) and Rep. Steve Slesnick (D-Canton).

Rep. Sprague noted “Increasing the allowed amount of foreign debt allows us to support strong allies like Israel when it makes sense for Ohio taxpayers. This type of solid return and low risk investment should be a priority for us since Israel has never in its history missed a bond payment.”

“I’m pleased to see that my colleagues felt it was important to invest in Israel in a manner that helps Ohio and Ohio taxpayers as well. In my eight and a half years in the Legislature, it’s been an honor representing not only my district, but serving all Jewish communities across Ohio, and this was a great ending note to my time in the General Assembly,” said Rep. Slesnick.

Both the overall bill and this specific portion relating to investment of the state and county portfolios in bonds had the full support of Treasurer Josh Mandel.

**Ohio treasurer’s support**

Chris Berry, spokesman for Treasurer Mandel stated “Israel is the only country in the Middle East that shares the American values of freedom of speech, freedom of assembly and treating men and women as equals. Treasurer Mandel applauds the legislature for their action on stopping the bigoted BDS movement.”

“What a one-two punch to the BDS movement. First, Ohio becomes the latest state to pass legislation banning their discriminatory conduct. And then, it allows - if it makes good financial sense - for states and counties to invest in a proactive, positive action,” said Howie Beigelman, executive director of Ohio Jewish Communities.

The legislation, and the advocacy behind it, were supported by a coalition “as diverse as Ohio.” In addition to Ohio Jewish Communities and the eight Jewish federations statewide, the coalition included an array of Jewish groups, human rights & civil liberties advocates, Christian supporters of Israel, and business and civic leaders.*

“With the passage of HB 476, truth prevails in Ohio over discrimination from the BDS movement,” said Ed Douglas, Ohio Director of Christians United for Israel.

**Legislative priority**

“This bill wouldn’t have passed without an active, engaged coalition and most certainly not without the dogged commitment of our sponsors, Rep. Schuring and Leader Strahorn. Thanks as well to Speaker Rosenberger, President Faber, and President-elect Obhof who made sure this was a priority before the Legislature adjourned for the year. As well, our gratitude goes to two amazing committee chairmen, Sen. Bill Coley and former Rep. Tim Brown who gave all sides their say and kept hearings on schedule and civil. This could not have moved without all their support or determination,” said Beigelman.

Joel Marcovitch, CEO of The Jewish Federation of Greater Toledo stated “The passing of this bill represents the State’s loud and clear message that boycotting the only Jewish state in the world is discriminatory in action and discriminatory based on national origin in nature. A huge debt of gratitude should go to those that made this bill possible and to those that voted on the right side of history.”

In addition to the sponsors, committee chairs, and leadership there were some rank and file legislators who were instrumental Beigelman added, singing out Rep. David Leland in the House and Senator Sandra Williams.

Originally passed in the House last month, the bill was amended slightly in the Senate to any nation with which Ohio enjoys “open trade, including Israel.” While not looking to give preference to Israel, legislators and advocates alike wanted to ensure Israel was specifically mentioned since it is the only country currently facing such economic warfare.

In addition, in order to allay concerns over businesses unintentionally being caught by the bill’s requirements, the definition of boycott was expanded to specifically note that legitimate business reasons wouldn’t trigger the bill.

Eric Fingerhut, a former Ohio state senator and chancellor of the Ohio Board of Regents who now serves as president and CEO of Hillel International knows more than most about BDS as it affects college campuses nationally.

Fingerhut said “It’s encouraging to see Ohio and many other states around the country taking this major step forward in reaffirming their strong alliance with the State of Israel. I am especially proud of my home state and the Ohio General Assembly, in which I served. With the bipartisan support this legislation received, it is clear that a growing number of citizens and government leaders see the BDS movement for what it truly is. We call all those that are concerned with the future of Israel and its neighbors to join us in finding proactive solutions that bring peace and prosperity to people everywhere.”

In declining to support the bill, Representative Michelle Lepore-Hagan (D-Youngstown) said, “I listened to the arguments on the floor and in caucus and read the editorials [in Ohio’s leading newspapers]. I am all for boycotts to pursue political change as long as it is voluntary and peaceful. It is not an issue of Israeli and Palestinian relations, it is an issue of the first amendment rights and freedom of speech.

“There are many ways we can and should show our support for Israel, short of imposing economic sanctions on Ohioans who are exercising their freedom of speech, and acting on their conscientiously held beliefs,” Rep. Lepore-Hagan said.*

The coalition includes: Agudath Israel of America, American Jewish Committee, Christian Coalition of Ohio, Christians United for Israel, Hillel International, Israel Action Network, Israel Allies Foundation, Israel Leadership Institute, The Israel Project, JCPA, Orthodox Union, the Simon Wiesenthal Center, StandWithUs, and the World Jewish Congress.
For more information, contact: Darlene Muller 330-746-3250 Ext. 106 or Dmuller@jewishyoungstown.org.

Darlene’s Destinations
Rogers & Hammerstein’s The King and I

One of Rodgers & Hammerstein’s finest works, The King and I boasts a score which features such beloved classics as “Getting to Know You,” “I Whistle a Happy Tune,” “Hello Young Lovers,” “Shall We Dance” and “Something Wonderful.”

Set in 1860’s Bangkok, the musical tells the story of the unconventional and tempestuous relationship that develops between the King of Siam and Anna Leonowens, a British school teacher whom the modernist king, in an imperialistic world, brings to Siam to teach his many wives and children.

Price includes orchestra seat, transportation and tip for the bus driver. Dinner on your own.

Date: Sunday, Feb. 26, 2017
Location: Cleveland, OH
Leave JCC: 11 a.m.
Return: 7:30 p.m.
$65/Member $85/Non Member

Movie and Lunch Bunch
The King’s Speech

When England’s throne is suddenly thrust upon him, King George VI must overcome a lifelong debilitating speech impediment to lead his nation. After his iron-willed, compassionate wife secretly enlists an eccentric speech therapist, the two men forge an unlikely friendship that will ultimately empower the monarch to find his voice, inspire his people and rally the world. A light lunch will be served.

Date: Thursday, Jan. 19, 2017
Time: Noon - 2:30 p.m.
Location: JCC Multi-Purpose Room
$5/Member $7/Non Member
$10 after January 2

Cheer Program with Cheer Time Athletics

CheerTime Athletics is coming to the JCC! Learn the fundamentals of cheer and tumbling from CheerTime Athletics’ educated and award winning staff. They have worked with more than 60 local cheer teams and their own competitive Dream Team All-Stars. Finish off the classes with a cheer performance at a real cheer competition! T-shirt included.

Date: Wednesdays, Jan. 11, 18, 25, Feb. 1, 8, 15, 2017
Cheer competition: Sunday, Feb. 19, 2017
Time: 3:30 – 4:30 p.m.
Location: JCC Gymnasium
$40/Member $55/Non Member

Camp Open House and Pool Party!

Want to learn more about what we’re offering for summer 2017? Come with your campers (all ages welcome) to our Open House Pool Party to find out what awesome things we have in store! The pool will be open for free swim and our staff will be there to walk you through our offerings and options for Camp JCC. Camp registration will also be available for an initial deposit of $100 that will go towards the cost of your camp fee. Sign up before March 31 and receive an Early Bird Discount of $50 off your camp fee!

Lunch and Learn: Israeli Diversity

Israel has one of the most diverse societies in the world. Immigrants from various countries around the world have made Israel a multicultural country. Join us for a fascinating lecture as we learn about the influence that many of these cultures have had on Israeli society. The event is free and open to the public. Lunch will be served.

R.S.V.P. to Gon Erez by Jan. 23, 2017

Performing Arts

NEW JCC School of Music

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

OPEN HOUSE & REGISTRATION
Tuesday, Jan. 3, 2017
5:00 – 7:00 p.m.
Session 1: Jan. 9 – April 9, 2017

NEW JCC School of Music

Introducing the Jewish Community Center of Youngstown School of Music! This exciting new program will featuring piano, violin, guitar, percussion, and voice lessons housed at the JCC! Visit jccyoungstown.org to learn more and to register for JCC School of Music lessons contact the JCC Bursar’s Office: 330.746.3250 ext. 195.
GROUP EXERCISE

Chiseled
This unique class utilizes barbells, steps and rubberized weights. This class is low impact and high energy. This focus is on a gradual progression to more challenging exercise and weight.
Date: Tues/Thurs
Time: 9:00-9:55 a.m.

Stress Relief Meditation
This class will focus on stress relief and reduction. Each week you will explore sitting meditation as well as other modalities of meditating so you will feel more comfortable practicing on your own.
Date: Weds
Time: 11:00-11:55 a.m.

FITNESS

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

Get fit fast with Personal Training at the JCC!

Personal Training Benefits
• Personalized safe and effective fitness programs
• Achievement of goals in a short time period
• Improved muscle coordination, strength, endurance, and flexibility

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Health and Wellness Program
Eating Healthy at Any Age

Date: Friday, January 20, 2017
Time: Noon – 1:00 p.m.
Location: Multi-Purpose Room
Registered Dietitian Leigh Ann Marchio RD, LD, will join us for an informative talk about some of the healthiest eating habits for any age. This event is free and open to the public.

AQUATICS

For more information on Aquatics, contact Shawn Chrystal, 330-746-3250 ext. 112 or aquatics@jewishyoungstown.org.

Aquatic Classes

NEW Aqua Strength Training
Aqua strength and conditioning is a total body routine filled with high intensity cardio for ultimate fat burning. Aquatic weight training is used for sculpting and reshaping the body.
Date: Thurs
Time: 5:30 – 6:30 p.m.

Water Wonders
This low impact class will improve posture, decrease joint and muscle pain and decrease the risk for falls/injury. The full range of motion exercises will also help with strength and flexibility. No swimming ability required.
Date: Tues/Thurs
Time: 11:45 – 12:45 p.m.

You & Me Baby
In this monthly class, parents assist their children in the water. Children will learn how to float and improve their water skills. Recommended ages: 6-36 months. Swim pants or swim diapers are required.
Date: Saturdays, 9:30-10:00 a.m.
$30/Member $40/Non Member

Learn-to-Swim ages 3 & up
Children will be placed into the appropriate level by the swim instructors.
Level 1: Children are taught basic swimming skills such as floating, blowing bubbles and the correct body positions for freestyle and backstroke.
Level 2: Children are taught the arm motions for freestyle and backstroke as well as the correct breathing patterns for both strokes.

Level 3: Children are taught the basics of breaststroke, butterfly, and diving as well as refining freestyle and backstroke techniques.
Level 4/5: Children will continue to refine the four swim strokes and diving.
Date: Saturdays, 8:50 – 9:30 a.m. or 10:00-10:35 a.m.
$30/Member $40/Non Member

Private Swim Lessons
Private swim lessons provide the greatest flexibility among lesson options. The one-on-one attention provided through these lessons creates a personalized setting for learning. Private lessons are great for swimmers of any age from the rookie swimmer trying to learn the basics to the seasoned swimmer looking to improve their skills. Private lessons are also great for adults who want to learn-to-swim or even triathletes looking to improve their skills.
1:1 student/teacher ratio
4 lessons @ 30 minutes
$72/Member $110/Non Member

Rentals
The JCC is now booking Graduation Parties in our beautiful Multi-Purpose Room. We can accommodate up to 250 people. Dates are filling up fast! Contact Kelli McCormick to book your party today. 330-746-3250 ext. 284.
Alice Raful Lev

YOUNGSTOWN – Alice Raful Lev, passed away on Dec. 14, 2016, at the age of 91. She was born on Dec. 22, 1925, in Akron, to Joseph and Molly Raful. She was the second of three children, having an older brother, Robert Rafal, and a younger sister Carol Tager. The family had movie theaters in Cleveland and then Newton Falls, where she spent most of her childhood.

About 1941, the family moved to Youngstown, where the family built and opened the Newport Theater, a state of the art theater on the south side of Youngstown. Alice spent her senior year in Youngstown and graduated from Boardman High School and Youngstown State University.

In Youngstown, there was a large Jewish population and it was there that she was able to meet and date some Jewish men for the first time, including her future husband, Irving.

Not really at ease with the country club life-style of many housewives, Alice got involved in a place where she felt she could make a difference, public service, and fighting for the rights of the disadvantaged.

After a lifetime of public service, in 1988, Alice was inducted into the Ohio Women's Hall of Fame as a “community organizer and advocate for social justice.” She joins the ranks of other great Ohio women such as Harriet Beecher Stowe, Gloria Steinem, Annie Oakley, and Doris Day. The following is from their website.

“Alice Lev’s lifelong commitment to social justice has benefited disadvantaged persons, women and minorities on the national, state and local levels. She was a member of the U.S. Civil Rights Commission Advisory Board and helped establish the Minority Business Division of the Ohio Department of Development.

Mrs. Lev became executive director of the Youngstown Area Development Corporation, a minority business and community development agency, in 1972. Previously, as the associate director of the Youngstown Fair Housing Committee, she helped author and secure passage of Youngstown's Fair Housing law and served with the Statewide Fair Housing Association to secure a State Fair Housing law. Her work focused on developing low income, subsidized housing throughout Ohio, especially for persons who have a mental illness.

She has served on the NAACP board, the Jewish Community Relations Council, Urban League, National Organization for Women and the Ohio and Youngstown Peace Councils. Alice was active on countless community organizations. She was a member of the Mahoning County Democratic Central Committee and was the chairman of the Ohio Chapter of Americans for Democratic Action.

In her later years, it was impossible to walk along Federal Street in downtown Youngstown with Alice without many people coming up and thanking her for helping them get their first job, changing their life, and thanking her for helping them get their first job, changing their life, and teaching them how to make a difference, public service, and fighting for the rights of the disadvantaged.

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Alice is survived by her husband Irv; sons Steve Lev and Doug Lev; daughter Roslyn Lev Malloy and her husband, Chris; grandchildren Stacie Tomasello and husband Jim, Stephanie Shanbrotzky and husband Bobby, Yair Lev and wife Bari, and Yael Lev and her husband, Yinon; and six great-grandchildren, Joey, Sammy, Emma, Andrew, Ryan and Anat.

Services were held at the Shriver Allison Funeral Home, 292 Madison Ave. in Youngstown, on Dec. 19. There will be a private interment.
Youngstown – Donald I. Miller, 82, president of Miller and Gould Beauty and Barber Supply, passed away of heart failure, on Wednesday, Nov. 30, 2016, at Heritage Manor in Youngstown. He resided in Howland and Sarasota, Fla.

“Donnie” was born Sept. 8, 1934, in Youngstown, son of the late Sarah and Alfred Miller.

He graduated from South High School in 1952. He received a Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree from Ohio University, Athens, in 1956 and was a member of Phi Epsilon Pi Fraternity. He majored in radio and television, and journalism. Upon graduation he served two years in the U.S. Army, Signal Corps, stationed at Fort Hood, TX, and subsequently four years in the U.S. Army Reserves.

Upon returning to Youngstown, Don entered the family business. Under his leadership, the business grew and thrived. He was loved by his many employees and customers and consistently tried to educate and help them achieve. He was a great boss and his employees wanted to work for him.

Many area beauty and barber shops were aided by his expertise and guidance. He was an active member and leader in the Beauty and Barber Supply Institute. After he sold the business, he worked part-time for Anzelotti, Sperling, Pazol and Small as a law clerk and enjoyed the challenge and the experience for 14 years.

Don was very active in the community. He served for many years on the boards of Temple El Emeth, the Jewish Community Center as treasurer, Squaw Creek Country Club, Stoneybrook Golf and Country Club. He was a member of B’Nai Brith, ZOA, and the Jewish Federation.

He could always be counted on to lend a hand. He had a very melodious voice and for years was a reader for the Radio Reading Services for the Blind in Youngstown and sang in the Temple El Emeth choir. He was a board member of the Camden Pond Condominium Association in Howland. In Sarasota, he was the president of the Stoneybrook Clubs Side South Condominium board for 10 years, and on the board of Veranda Greens North.

Don was an avid sports fan and rooted for the Cleveland Indians, Cavaliers and Browns through thick and thin. He loved ice skating, horse back riding, playing catch, tennis and golf, and especially sharing the camaraderie of dear friends on the golf course.

He was a lover of the arts and supported the Youngstown Symphony, the Cleveland Symphony, the Sarasota Orchestra, the Florida Studio Theatre, Asolo Theatre, Westcoast Black Theatre Group, Fellows Gardens, Selby Gardens, Ringling Art Museum, Butler Art Museum and many charities.

He attended the Sarasota Institute of Lifelong Learning and took many adult education classes, both at Youngstown State University and in Sarasota. He loved to read and discuss current events, attend concerts and plays and walk Siesta Key Beach. His family will long remember his “lead tenor” singing at family functions or phone messages.

Don and his wife traveled extensively to Europe, Israel, the Orient, Australia, New Zealand, Canada and the U.S. He was adventurous and loved good food. He especially loved the trips taken with his children and grandchildren.

He was a very loving son, grandson, husband, father, grandfather, and friend. He was a very sweet, warm, witty, thoughtful, steady, loyal, bright, conscientious, generous, sincere, kind man with a twinkle in his eye. He loved being with family and friends. He was a “mensch.” The world is a better place because he was in it.

During the past two months, many family and friends traveled from far and wide to be with him or called to express their love. He appreciated their visits and calls and cherished their friendship and love.

Don is survived by the love of his life, the former Sandra “Sandy” Segall, whom he married 59 years ago on July 14, 1957, at Anshe Emeth Temple; a daughter, Marcy Lichtsien, of Galanna; a son, Mark (Robin) of Cincinnati; a sister, Anita (Edward) Haenick of Bloomfield Hills, Mich.; two grandchildren, Rachel (Carl) Amerine of Dublin, and Adam (Megan Bohn) Lichtsien, New Albany, Ohio; three step-grandchildren, Chris (Angie) McPherson, Danny McPherson, and Ian McPherson, all of Cincinnati; one step-grandchild, Helena McPherson; two sisters-in-law, Ruth Ruderman and Marilyn Segall Cafarelli; and many dear nieces, nephews, and cousins.

The family would like to especially thank the staff at Heritage Manor for their exceptional care and the doctors and nurses who extended his life and gave him quality time over the past few years.

He was preceded in death by two brothers-in-law, Stanley Segall and Eric Ruderman; his in-laws, Sylvia and Reuben Segall; and two loving pets, dachshunds, Gretchen and Farfel.

Funeral services were held on Dec. 2, at El Emeth Cemetery Chapel on Granada Ave.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to Heritage Manor, 517 Gypsy Lane, Youngstown, OH 44504, or Temple El Emeth, 3970 Logan Way, Youngstown, OH 44505.

Shiva was observed on Sunday, Dec. 4 at his Howland residence.

Arrangements were by the Shriver-Allison-Courtey-Weller-King Funeral Home in Youngstown.

May their memories be only for a blessing.

Ida Schantz died on Tuesday, Dec. 6, 2017, in Pompano Beach, FL. She was 95.

The daughter of George (Gershon) Stern and Rebecca Kruk Stern, Mrs. Schantz was born in Canton, Ohio on July 7, 1921.

Ida worked in sales all of her life. As a teenager, she sold shoes. She and her husband Milt owned and operated a camera shop in Youngstown. After her children died, she moved from Youngstown to Pompano Beach, FL to be with her twin sister, Sarah, and her three nieces. She worked in the hotel gift/boutique shops in hotels. The shops were owned and operated by Marvin and Sharon Levy, Marvin, Sharon and Ida’s sister, Sarah, all worked in these shops. They were a salvation for Ida who had lost her two children and her husband in a short period of time.

She loved interacting with the hotel guests, going to the Miami wholesale market to select merchandise for the shops and helping out in the hotel lobby when retail shows were set out for hotel guests going on cruises.

The guests loved Ida, and she was a great salesperson. Her niece Sharon often said “Aunt Ida could sell the spots off the carpet.”

Ida played canasta and mahjong with her friends and enjoyed dinners out — until she became ill. Sarah’s three daughters, Ida’s nieces, Sharon Bohm Levy, Gloria Bohm Goodman and Aline Bohm Greif, cared for Ida for the last 15 years of her life, during eight of which she was ill.

Ida’s husband Milt, passed away at age 63 on Nov. 10, 1984 from cancer. They were married in 1943-41 years. Ida’s son Robert “Bob” Schantz died Jan. 23, 1997 at the age of 53, also of cancer. Ida’s daughter, Susan Schantz Bartol, died Aug. 13, 1996 at the age of 46 (cancer). Her twin Sarah Stearn
Political satire runs in Spiegelman genes

By Gabe Friedman

Nadja Spiegelman is no stranger to controversial art.

She's the daughter of Art Spiegelman — the artist and writer best known for "Maus," his seminal graphic novel about the Holocaust — and Francoise Mouly, the New Yorker's art director, where she often produces strikingly political covers.

Now Nadja Spiegelman, 29, who has written children's books and a memoir about her upbringing, is stepping into the political fray. Alongside her mother, she is editing a collection of comics and illustrations on the theme of "political resistance to the forces of intolerance" called "RESIST!"

Some 30,000 copies of the fervently anti-Trump publication — a special issue of Gabe Fowler's "quarterly tabloid comics anthology" Smoke Signal — will be distributed for free in Washington, D.C., on Inauguration Day in January. More copies will be given away at women's marches across the country in the days after.

As the submissions — including some from big names like Roz Chast — come in, some illustrations have already been posted online. They may not make the publication's final cut, Spiegelman told JTA — she said the goal is to create an online archive, as well as foster a community of artists in dialogue with one another. One image shows a monk trying not to "think about Trump" while meditating. Another features a pregnant woman with her belly stuck in a pillory — a perceived jab at some of the incoming Trump administration's proposed policies, such as defunding Planned Parenthood and overturning Roe v. Wade.

One of the early submissions to RESIST! critiques Trump's efforts to "drain the swamp" of political insiders. (Henrik Drescher)

Some illustrations also tackle anti-Semitism, and the phrase "RESIST the normalization of fascism" appears at the top of the site's "about" page. One image references Trump's promise to "drain the swamp" of political insiders in Washington, showing Hitler's head appearing at the bottom of a body of water. In another, swastikas morph into different images, like a window and a kite.

(Continued on page 24)

Ida Schantz (continued from page 15)

Bohm passed away in 2010

Bob Schantz's son, David Schantz lives in Columbus, OH. Ida was very proud of his career in nursing as she had encouraged him to pursue this profession. He served in Afghanistan. He is married to Jill and they have two daughters, Alyssa and Maryann, Ida's great-granddaughters.

Susan Schantz married Jack Bartol, and their son, Aj Bartol, lives in Enterprise, AL, with his wife, Nikki; son, Blake; and precious daughter Charlotte Rose, Ida's great grandchildren and Susan's husband, Jack Bartol, attended the service.

Britain's Mitzvah Day brings out a record 25,000 volunteers

(JTA) – Some 25,000 people, including London Mayor Sadiq Khan, participated in British Jewry's largest-ever Mitzvah Day.

Organizers said the number of volunteers for the faith-based day of social action, which this year was held on Nov. 27, was the most since Mitzvah Day was first inaugurated in the United Kingdom in 2005.

Bringing together Jews, Muslims, Christians, Hindus and others, activities included hosting tea parties, making teddy bears, wrapping Christmas presents, cooking meals, and collecting goods for immigrants and the poor.

Joining Khan, the first Muslim mayor of London, as volunteers were Communities Minister Lord Bourne, Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis, Imam Qari Asim, Bishop of Edmonton Robert Wickham and numerous lawmakers.

This year's Mitzvah Day was focused on building bridges in British society following the polarizing effect of a referendum held in May in which a majority of voters supported a British exit, or Brexit, from the European Union. The campaign to leave highlighted issues connected to immigration and integration. Following the vote, British watchdog groups reported a spike in xenophobic hate crimes and incidents.

"Since the E.U. Referendum and U.S. Presidential Election campaigns, we've seen a recorded rise in racism and hate crimes, and a heightened fear of the outsider," said Laura Marks, a former vice president of the Board of Deputies of British Jews and the founder of Mitzvah Day. “The need to bring people together has never been greater.”

One of the activities conducted during Mitzvah Day included "wrapping Christmas presents, or making cards and teddy bears, for those who have been through so much hardship," Marks added, in reference to children she described as refugees.

Khan and some of his staff collected biscuits and cakes for a Christmas party that the Alyth Reform Synagogue hosted for refugees.

"Thousands of volunteers of all faiths in London, and around the United Kingdom and the world, gave up their time to bring our communities together, in the service of others, for Mitzvah Day 2016," the mayor said, adding that "this special day is a big part of what makes our city, and our country, so great.”

In addition to the 25,000 volunteers in Britain, some 15,000 people participated in Mitzvah Day projects abroad that were inspired by the British event and timed to be held simultaneously in 25 countries, Marks said.

In total, Mitzvah Day participants gave 150,000 hours of their time to help hundreds of charities and causes.

Religious school director position NOW OPEN

- Chadash, the Canton community religious school is accepting applications for director.
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- 30 hours per week, 6 weeks off/year, no benefits.
- Application deadline: February 1, 2017
- Send resumes to ChadashApps@gmail.com
Irwin Thomases recognized for his philanthropic endeavors

The Mahoning County Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals presented its Legacy Award Nov. 18 in honor of Irwin Thomases, who established an anonymous donor-advised fund at the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation, that upon his death became the Thomases Family Endowment. Accepting the award are his daughters Andi Baroff and Martha Thomases.

The 2016 National Philanthropy Day Legacy Award is presented in conjunction with the Mahoning/Shenango Planned Giving Council. This award is given to an individual or family who demonstrates exceptional generosity by providing financial support to a charitable cause or causes through an irrevocable gift from an estate or through a planed gift. The recipient, by example, encourages and motivates others to support a philanthropic cause through one’s estate plan. This award is given posthumously.

Mexican billionaire Carlos Slim ‘bullish’ on Israeli technology

(JTA) — Israel poses a challenge to the United States in the leadership of the global high technology industry, according to Carlos Slim, the Mexican telecommunications magnate.

“You are the leaders in technology, but there are other countries moving there – China, Israel – and everyone wants to improve,” Slim, 76, said in a recent TV interview with Bloomberg. Slim is considered one of the world’s 10 richest people, according to Forbes magazine.

The Bloomberg Billionaires Index estimates his worth at $48.1 billion — down from more than $55 billion in the days before Donald Trump’s victory over Hillary Clinton in the U.S. presidential race sent the peso into a nosedive.

In 2013, Slim topped the list as the world’s richest person for the fourth year in a row. On that same year, he welcomed the late Israeli President Shimon Peres at the largest book fair of the Spanish-speaking world in Mexico, where Israel was the country of honor.

Also in 2013, Slim invested $60 million in the Israeli startup Mobi as part of a partnership with the biggest cellular company in Latin America, American Mobile, which he owned.

Making Sense of the Jewish revival

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$2950 double occupancy LAND ONLY*
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HIGHLIGHTS:

- Museum of History of Polish Jews, Warsaw
- Warsaw Train Station and Old Town
- Warsaw Ghetto and Memorial
- Majdanek Concentration & Extermination Camp
- Kazimierz Jewish Quarter
- Krakow Synagogue and Jewish cemetery
- General city sites of Warsaw and Krakow
- Auschwitz - Birkenau
- Meet young adults building Jewish Budapest
- Budapest city sites including the Castle District
- Dohany synagogue
- Budapest Jewish Quarter
- Partnership Friends
- Balint JCC
- Israel Cultural Institute
- Szentendre artist village
- Boat ride on the Danube
- Bratislava Museum of Jewish Culture
- Tour Jewish Bratislava and synagogue

PRICE INCLUDES:

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- Boat tour on Danube
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  5★Hotel Holiday Inn City Center (Krakow)
  4★Regency Suites Hotel (Budapest)
  5★Kempinski Hotel Corvinus (Budapest)

www.westerngalilee.org.il

Registration Deadline: January 6, 2017
($1000 Deposit to your Federation required, cancellation fees apply after Jan. 15, final payment required by March 10.)

Contact Andy Lipkin, ALipkin@JewishYoungstown.org (330) 746-3250 x 111
or Sarah Wilschek, SarahWilschek@JewishYoungstown.org (330) 746-3250 X 123
for more information.
**BERLIN EXTENSION:**
May 16 - May 19, 2017

$1498 per person *(double occupancy)*
$250 single supplement
*Trip based on minimum 8 participants
*(Depart Budapest morning of May 16; Depart Berlin morning of May 19)*

**HIGHLIGHTS:**
- Jewish Berlin Tour—Jewish Quarter, New Synagogue, and Cemetery
- Brandenburg Gate
- Reichstag Boulevard Unterden Linden
- Berlin Wall
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- Holocaust Memorial
- House of Wannsee Konferenz

**INCLUDED:**
- Hotel Palace Berlin
- English speaking guide
- Daily breakfast buffet
- Deluxe air conditioned coach
- All entrance fees
- 1 lunch
- Farewell Dinner
* Some special transfers may not be included

**WESTERN GALILEE EXTENSION:**
May 16 - May 19, 2017

$500 per person *(land only - double occupancy)*
$160 single supplement

**HIGHLIGHTS:**
- Culinary Workshop
- Galilee Medical Center Tour and Briefing
- Malka Beer Tasting
- Command Centers and Israel/Lebanon Border Tour
- Tikkun Olam Project with P2G Twinning School
- Rosh Hanikra Club Car Rides
- Dinners with Israeli Friends

**WHAT IS PARTNERSHIP2GETHER?**
PARTNERSHIP2GETHER is a program of the Jewish Agency and the Jewish Federations of North America, promoting people-to-people relationships through cultural, social, medical, educational and economic programs. This Partnership is between the 14 communities of the Central Area Consortium, Budapest, Hungary and Israel’s Western Galilee.

**Our Partnership2GETHER Communities:** Buffalo, NY, Dayton, Toledo, Youngstown, Ohio; Fort Wayne, Indianapolis, Northwest Indiana, South Bend, Indiana; Louisville, Kentucky; Des Moines, Iowa, Omaha, Nebraska; Austin, Fort Worth, San Antonio, Texas and Budapest are linked with Akko and Matte Asher in the Western Galilee.

**Contact:** Andy Lipkin at ALipkin@JewishYoungstown.org or Sarah Wilschek at SarahWilschek@JewishYoungstown.org

**CONNECT & MAKE A DIFFERENCE**

*All deposit and cancellation policies apply.*
New program offers teens the wisdom of community leaders

The JCC in partnership with Ohio Northern Region BBYO has started a leadership program titled “LEAD” — Leadership Exploration and Development. The idea is to have Jewish teens in 9th – 12th grades, learn about leadership and life skills from local Jewish community leaders. The group will get together monthly for six months, meeting with a different community leader at her or his place of business and hearing the story of those businesses.

After touring their offices or facilities, the teens will hear the leaders’ personal stories, and learn how they came to achieve professional success. They will then share their expertise on a specific topic that they feel is relevant to helping teens thrive as leaders.

The topics have been selected as those that the teens will encounter as they move forward in life: communication and networking, teamwork, interview skills, professionalism and ethics, confidence to create new opportunities, and project/time management. Some leaders will also be sharing how Judaism has played a positive role in their professional lives.

Among the community members who have offered to participate in this program are Leonard Fisher – Handel’s Ice Cream; Megan Vickers – Soft Touch Furniture; Bob Hendricks – Dinesol Plastics Inc.; Matt Smith – Niles Iron & Metal Co.; and Brian Horowitz and Matt Stahm – One948 Israel & Jewish Themed Apparel.

The first meeting was on Wednesday, Dec. 14 with young Jewish entrepreneurs Brian Horowitz and Matt Stahm, who have a start-up Israel- and Jewish-themed apparel company in Cleveland named One948. Ten per cent of their profits go to non-profit organizations that help Israel. About eight teens attended to hear the speakers focus on the importance of the leadership skill of networking.

The next session is Jan. 11 with Megan Vickers at her company, Soft Touch Furniture. She will be give participants a tour and focus on project/time management.

Pre-order Rodef Sholom commemorative books

The Commemorative Book for Congregation Rodef Sholom’s 150th anniversary is going to press soon. To determine how many copies to print, so a discount is being offered for those pre-ordering one or more books by Feb. 1. The standard cost of a book is $50, but for those who order before the deadline, the cost is only $36 per copy.

The Commemorative Books of those who have contributed $250 or more to sponsor the sesquicentennial celebration, are already pre-ordered and paid for, so nothing further is needed for them to receive their copies. However, those who want additional copies, pre-order them by the deadline for $36 each.

Please Note: Buying an ad in the 150th Anniversary Program Guide is not the same as purchasing a sponsorship for the Commemorative Book and does not entitle the advertiser to a complimentary copy.

To pre-order a Commemorative Book, fill in this form and send with your check to —

* Congregation Rodef Sholom
* 1119 Elm Street
* Youngstown, OH 44505

* Name ________________________________
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Participating in the first teen leadership session, from left to right are Matt Stahm, (co-owner of Cleveland start-up One948), Vy Rosenthal, Ethan Trachtman, Savannah Berk, Caroline Scharf, Karsyn Berk, Brian Horowitz, (co-owner of Cleveland start-up One948), Jaden Berk, and Lexi Burdman.

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Looking forward to a new year

By Arthur Greenbaum, M.D.
President, Congregation Rodef Sholom

The leaves have finally fallen, and we have had our first snowfall as we head into winter, looking forward to renewed warmth and the rebirth of green plants in the spring. The Temple Board just hosted an end-of-year dinner with the office staff in which we welcomed a new addition to our staff, Erica Larnerd, originally from Danbury, CT. We look forward to her youth, energy, and creative experience that she will add to our administrative team.

Years ago, when Toni and I frequented Lake Chautauqua, we heard Peter, Paul and Mary in concert, and we were able to meet them after the concert, when I had an opportunity to relate that I was there in the early ’60s when they began their career singing anti-war ballads on College Walk at Columbia University. Peter and Paul are both Jewish, and several Chanukah songs are featured in their repertoire. One of these, “Light the Light,” celebrates the regaining of freedom by the Maccabean army, the cleansing of the Temple, and the miracle of the Chanukah candles.

Chanukah is fast approaching, and my focus turns to the miracle of the limited remnant of olive oil for the candles lasting for eight days. I have always wondered whether this miracle did not really relate to the ingenuity of starting with one candle, adding another for each successive day (the Rabbi may need to help me with this).

In any case, thinking about ingenuity, and all the examples as such, is it not the case that we inspire our ingenuity as a gift from God? The advent of candles, wine, and bread each are early examples of ingenious inventions in their way, each having a large impact on our quality and way of life. Appropriately, we thank God for sharing these inventions with us.

And in our turn, Toni, Joshua, and I wish all of you a wonderful Chanukah, and a happy and healthy new year.

LeChaim!

Rabbi Muller with Congressman Tim Ryan, featured speaker at the Mayor’s Interfaith Prayer Breakfast held Nov. 22 at the Mahoning Country Club.
In major campaign, Israel courts tourists from India and China

By Debra Kamin

TEL AVIV (JTA) — When Bollywood star and Indian fashion icon Sonam Kapoor appeared on the cover of the June-July issue of Harper’s Bazaar Bride, India, she did so wearing a sheer pink confection and a radiant smile. Behind her sprawled the Old City of Jerusalem.

It wasn’t happenstance. The Israeli government — keen to tap into a growing Asian middle class who are armed with passports and eager to explore the globe — has thrown its weight behind a number of creative efforts to promote Israel as a destination for tourists from India and China.

Kapoor, a fixture in Bollywood films and the daughter of renowned Indian actor and producer Anil Kapoor, came to Israel in May as a guest of the Israel Tourism Ministry. The hope is that A-list celebrity endorsements, in the form of social media posts, will translate to millions of shekels in tourist visits down the road.

In the two years since the Gaza War, with tourism still sagging and hotel stays 22 percent lower than in the months before the war, the Israeli government has doubled down on its efforts to woo Asian visitors. Call it the new frontier for Israeli tourism: When it comes to courting visitors, there is no doubt that the Holy Land is looking east.

“India and China both have a huge economic potential, a huge number of people, and have shown huge growth in the number of people traveling overseas,” said Pini Shani, the director of the Overseas Department at the Israeli Ministry of Tourism.

Celebrities, of course, are key to tapping into that potential. Kapoor chronicled her trip with a flurry of Snapchat selfies, which saw her visiting sites around the Old City and showing off a series of big sunglasses in taxis on the way to Tel Aviv and the Dead Sea with gushing captions like “Meeting incredible people through my travels is such a plus!”

While Kapoor came to Israel for the Harper’s layout — the photo shoot featured her frolicking in the streets and alleyways of ancient Jerusalem wearing a number of stunning gowns by both Indian and Israeli designers — she intended to take in a few quick tours of Jerusalem’s holy sites. But according to reports in the Indian media, she and her mother, who accompanied her on the visit, were so smitten by the country that they chose to stay longer.

In August, just after the magazine appeared on newsstands, the Israeli Tourism Ministry kicked off an approximately $1.5 million campaign in India, unveiling a symphony of television ads, print media endorsements and shout-outs on social media, as well as a dedicated website for Indian travelers to Israel.

Such a campaign is not unprecedented; the ministry drew upon its success two years earlier in courting Chinese visitors. The previous drive began with celebrity endorsements that garnered nearly double the amount of Chinese visitors to the Jewish state, year over year.

Back in 2014, just months before the start of the Gaza War, a Chinese film crew crowded the stark bank of the Dead Sea filming a scene for “Old Cinderella” — a Chinese blockbuster starring Zhang Jingchu about a May-December love triangle that played well in the world’s most populous country when it opened a few months later. Among the elements that made “Old Cinderella” beloved by Chinese viewers — an aging female protagonist, a dashing young suitor and a romantic ex-husband determined to woo back

(Continued on adjacent page)
New tourism program
(cont’d from previous page)

his ex-wife — there was also a surprising amount of stunning Israeli scenery to accompany the soapy dialogue.

“Old Cinderella” filmed in Israel after receiving an approximately $130,000 investment from the Israeli government, which offered its cash injection after being assured that the millions of Chinese viewers who would watch the film would also be treated to sweeping images of Israeli scenery.

The filmmakers wrote the country into the plot, with the female lead deciding amid a life crisis to restart her career and become a tour guide. It is during a guided tour of the Holy Land, of course, that the bulk of the film’s action occurs.

The government’s efforts to court Chinese travelers paid off: Visits to Israel this June rose a whopping 93 percent over June 2015, bolstered by three new nonstop flights each week from Beijing to Tel Aviv on China’s Hainan Airlines. Also helping were two major achievements from the Tourism Ministry: the cancellation of group visa fees (which were about $9 a person) and the extension of multiple-entry tourist visas up to 10 years.

Visitors from India in 2015 increased 13 percent over the previous year, and the Israeli government opened its first tourism office in Mumbai last year.

As demand from Asian tourists increases, hotel chains are doing their best to keep up. They are rushing to train chefs in Chinese and Indian cooking flavors, and hosting special workshops on spices and cooking preparations in order to better please their guests’ palates.

In November 2015 — just after opening the Mumbai tourism office — the Israeli government hosted four Indian celebrity chefs, who in exchange for guided tours of the country gave a series of workshops to hotel chefs on how to prepare Indian dishes. The same month, a quartet of Chinese chefs came to Israel, and at workshops at the Tadmor Hotel in Herzliya and the Dan Gourmet Cooking School in Tel Aviv, they led lessons for Israeli chefs on Chinese spices, oils and preparation of dishes like fried tofu.

Fellowship aids Jewish, Christian, Muslim Israelis

JERUSALEM, Dec. 23 – Hundreds of poor Israeli-Arab families are preparing for a traditional festive Christmas dinner this year thanks to the generous support of the International Fellowship of Christians and Jews. The Fellowship this week provided 550 needy Arab-Christian families throughout Israel with supermarket vouchers worth about $100, or 384 shekels, so that they can shop for food for their annual holiday dinner.

“With the Christmas holiday approaching, there’s no better time to help the most vulnerable members of Israel’s Christian-Arab community,” said Rabbi Yechiel Eckstein, president and founder of the Fellowship.

Typical of the recipients were Jamil and Georgette Khoury, both 75 and residents of Arab East Jerusalem. The couple lives in subsidized housing owned by the Roman Catholic Church. Although Jamil had worked at the local U.N. offices, he receives no pension and the couple must survive on $570 monthly social security benefits from Israel’s National Insurance Institute.

“The Christmas holiday is a symbol of peace and love. I’m very grateful to The Fellowship and its donors,” Mr. Khoury said. “The Fellowship was the first to say ‘Merry Christmas’ and to give us this wonderful gift that will help us celebrate the holiday. Thank you and Merry Christmas!”

The Christmas vouchers are just one of the Fellowship’s programs supporting Christians Arabs, who represent 2 percent of Israel’s 8 million citizens, and to building bridges of understanding between them, the Jewish people, and Israel. Other initiatives include leadership training to recruit young Christian-Arab Israeli men to serve in the Israel Defense Forces (IDF), to foster greater social integration of this minority group.

The Fellowship also provides food vouchers to low-income Israeli Arab-Muslim families for the feast of Ramadan.

The Fellowship has been widely recognized for its global work, aiding the poor and elderly in Israel and around the world, helping Jews immigrate to and resettle in Israel, supporting victims of terror and Lone Soldiers (those who serve in the IDF without immediate family in Israel), and defending Jews against anti-Semitism.

About The Fellowship:

The International Fellowship of Christians and Jews was founded in 1983 to promote better understanding and cooperation between Christians and Jews, and build broad support for Israel. Today it is one of the leading forces in helping Israel and Jews in need worldwide — and is the largest channel of Christian support for Israel. The Fellowship now raises more than $140 million per year, mostly from Christians, to assist Israel and the Jewish people.

jectory to the new government preserve justice and liberty in our land as active and involved citizens, which is the hallmark of any successful democracy. We ask for the strength to form our own opinions on the issues and not be influenced by outside forces and some in the media who often have an agenda that does not have our best interests at heart. Finally, we ask for the strength as a religious and spiritual community to be a light unto our precious nation as we navigate the difficult road ahead. May God bless our community and may God bless the United States of America. And let us all say, Amen.

Darlene and I wish everyone a Happy New Year 2017.
Spiegelman’s new satire (continued from page 16)

Spiegelman, who says she “can’t help but identify” as a member of the tribe, had an interesting Jewish upbringing. Mouly converted to Judaism before marrying Art Spiegelman, who famously chronicled his parents’ harrowing Holocaust saga in “Maus.” She said the family celebrated Jewish and Christian holidays in a kind of “cynical” way, with various outside influences — such as Marxist texts and “Day of the Dead” dolls.

Spiegelman says she and her mother have already received far more submissions for RESIST! than they expected — around 500 or so in the first week.

“We’ve clearly hit a nerve,” Spiegelman said. “There’s such a need that people have, especially artists, to find ways to begin to pick up a pen and fight against this. Now more than ever we do need to use our voices and make them as loud as possible.”

The concept originated with Fowler, who runs the Desert Island comics store in Brooklyn, where he produces his quarterly comics publication. He wanted to respond to the election by giving female voices an opportunity to express their reactions and fears. So for the first time, Fowler decided to have an issue edited by women. He reached out to Mouly and asked her to head the project; she subsequently asked her daughter to help.

At first, the idea was to only accept submissions from women and focus on women’s issues. The team has since broadened its scope — they are accepting submissions from men as well, but issues of female concern remain a dominant theme.

Spiegelman said it was interesting to separate the submissions by gender — the female artists tended to include drawings of women, while the male artists tended to include an image of Trump.

“When you start to see the submissions by women together, you start to hear this very powerful collective female voice that I’m glad we’re giving space to,” she said.

Spiegelman said she hasn’t received any of the online anti-Semitic abuse coursing through Twitter in recent months. But her mother received some hate mail after publishing a New Yorker cover that criticized Trump’s intention to build an impenetrable wall on the border with Mexico.

“She forwarded it to the rest of the family, saying ‘Wow, I must be doing something right!’” Spiegelman said.