THE 2016 COMMUNITY YOM HASHOAH EVENTS

Children in the Holocaust: A Lost Generation

ANNUAL COMMUNITY HOLOCAUST COMMEMORATION
Thursday, May 5, 2016 Noon
The Rotunda of the Mahoning County Courthouse

SHOAH MEMORIAL CEREMONY
Sunday, May 1, 2016 4:00 p.m.
Jewish Community Center

Jewish Community Center

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Yehudit Erez, Nya Aron, and Gon Erez, sing “Lu Yehi” at the Memorial Service for IDF Fallen Soldiers held at the Jewish Community Center in April. (For more, see the story on page 11)
Celebrating the 81st year of the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation

The 2016 Annual Meeting of the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation
Wednesday, May 25
at the Jewish Community Center of Youngstown.
5:30 p.m. – Award Dinner
7:00 p.m. – Meeting and Keynote Speaker

The Annual Meeting will also include the election and installation of Federation agency board members and the Annual Endowment Memorial Service. The community is invited to attend the dinner for $10/ person and the meeting at no charge. R.S.V.P. by May 20 to (330) 746-3250 x 108 or at www.JewishYoungstown.org.

Funds will not be solicited at this event.

Awards will be presented to —

Esther Marks Memorial Volunteer Service Award to Samuel D. Roth
Abe Harshman Leadership Award to Neil Kaback

The Marvin and Sarah Itts Community Service Award will be presented to Linda Sniderman and Marilyn Sniderman co-chairs of the 50th Anniversary Program that was held for Heritage Manor in 2015.

Suzi Kooperman Youth Leadership Award to Alec Kan

Youngstown Area Jewish Federation
3-Year Terms ending 2019
Lee Burdman
Atty. Peter Grinstein
Neil Kaback
Gerald Peskin
Tom Shapiro

Jewish Community Relations Council
2-Year Terms Ending 2018
Atty. Alden Chevlen
Talia Hagler
Florence Harshman
Atty. Martin Hume
Ellen Lamb
Linda Palumbo
Dr. Stanley Palumbo
Gerald Peskin
Sammie Winick

Jewish Community Center
3-Year Terms Ending 2019
Atty. Jeffrey Grinstein
Atty. Melissa Hively
Jonathan Silverman
Megan Vickers
Barry Wagner
Dr. Bruce Willner
David Wilschek
Term Ending 2018
Fran Dreyfus

Human Services
3-Year Terms Ending 2019
Dale Damioli
Suzyn Schwebel-Epstein
Alice Franklin
Louise Kannensohn
Claudia Moss
Atty. Marc Stein
Term Ending 2018
Atty. Jack Kessler
Term Ending 2017
Atty. Adam Sperling

Howie Beigelman, executive director of Ohio Jewish Communities. Ohio Jewish Communities represents the state’s eight Jewish federations, their partners and agencies in Columbus and in Washington, DC on a range of state, federal, and international issues.

Howie Beigelman’s professional experience is at the intersection of nonprofit advocacy and Jewish communal affairs. As executive director of Ohio Jewish Communities, he is the voice of the state’s Jewish community, lobbying for its concerns in Columbus and Washington, D.C.

Executive director of Ohio Jewish Communities to offer keynote

Howie Beigelman, executive director of Ohio Jewish Communities, will offer a keynote address on such issues as safety and security, health and long term care, community services to the aging, employment and job training, and nonpublic schools. He also educates elected officials and policymakers on key public affairs issues, including support for Israel, divestment from Iran, combatting BDS, and Holocaust remembrance.

An attorney by training, he served as deputy research director for New York Governor George Pataki’s 2002 re-election, which ABC News called the “best run” campaign in America for that cycle. He later served in the Pataki administration as part of the press and communications department, including time as a speechwriter.

In 2005, he joined the Orthodox Union, an international nonprofit organization, as founding state affairs professional at its nonpartisan public policy arm (then known as the Institute for Public Affairs, and now OU Advocacy), where he increased the OU’s political footprint in statehouses and legislatures across North America. While there, he also staffed interfaith dialogue with the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Mr. Beigelman holds a JD from Georgetown University where his two favorite professors were Rabbi David Saperstein, now United States Ambassador-at-Large for International Religious Freedom, and the late human rights activist, Father Robert Drinan, SJ. Mr. Beigelman earned his undergraduate degree in history from Yeshiva University.

For more information, call Sarah Wilschek (330) 746-3250 x123.
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Dear Readers, Your *Jewish Journal* has a new email address and a new email server. Please address all future electronic correspondence to journal@jewishyoungstown.org. Thank you.

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.

May 15 is the deadline for articles and ads for the June 2016 issue.
Online exhibit features the Jewish communities of western Pennsylvania

At one time, 75 towns in Western Pennsylvania had cohesive Jewish communities.

When immigrants arrived from Europe and started moving west from the entry ports of New York, Philadelphia, and Baltimore, the “wandering Jews” first formed minyanim so that prayers could be said. Soon, there were enough new Jews to form congregations, build synagogues, hire rabbis and mohels. As these communities grew through the 1920s, aid societies, cemeteries, and burial societies were founded as more Jews needed to be served and could volunteer to serve.

At an April 3 presentation, visitors to the Heinz History Center celebrated Jewish life in the small towns of Western Pennsylvania through the program “Every Town Had a Community.”

At present, the records, memories, oral histories of five Jewish communities have been archived: those in Donora, Latrobe, New Castle, Sharon and Farrell, and Unions town.

The organizers of the project hope that funding will emerge for their work to continue. The Thomases Endowment of the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation was one of the 2015-2016 underwriters for the project.

Although the archives aren’t available as a “hands-on” exhibit, museum-goers can instead check out the exhibits online at www.jewishhistoryhhc.org/

An interactive timeline allows the exploration of the regional Jewish history. The website tells the stories of families who have donated their papers and photographs to the Rauh Jewish Archives. The site also provides a searchable database of burials in Western Pennsylvania Jewish cemeteries.

Visitors to the site can also learn more about where to research, read, and discover the history of philanthropy and giving among Western Pennsylvania’s Jewish communities.

Future issues of the Jewish Journal will explore the Jewish roots of this area and discuss more fully some of the available resources.
JCRC announces 2016 Holocaust commemoration events

The Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) is announcing its annual Holocaust commemoration programs for this spring’s series of Yom Hashoah (Holocaust Remembrance) holiday observances. The annual Shoah Memorial Ceremony will be held on Sunday, May 1st, at 4:00 p.m. at the Jewish Community Center, and the 23rd Annual Community Holocaust Commemoration event is set for Thursday, May 5th, at Noon in the Rotunda of the Mahoning County Courthouse, Youngstown.

Yom Hashoah is an internationally recognized day set aside for remembering all victims of the Holocaust and for reminding society of what can happen to civilized people when bigotry, hatred, and indifference reign. In keeping with historical themes set by the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C., this year’s local theme is “Children in the Holocaust: A Lost Generation.” The community will specifically explore how, in any campaign of genocide, children are among the most vulnerable targets. The theme also addresses the fact that racial hatred has resurfaced again and again in the decades since the Holocaust, and sadly, children are affected most deeply. Reflection on such lessons reminds us that we must take action to prevent atrocities and vigorously seek justice for the victims of acts of hatred and inhumanity.

The annual memorial ceremony at the JCC will feature the premiere of a newly created Holocaust educational film, starring local teens, to be used as an instructional tool in area high schools. The dramatic film, which provides historical context about World War II and the Holocaust, depicts fictional students who are preparing to work on a class project about the Shoah. One of the students is a granddaughter of a Survivor who shares her family’s personal history with her peers. The memorial ceremony will also feature special music, student art project presentations, Holocaust-inspired readings, historical perspective, and a candlelighting ceremony led by family members of Survivors.

The Annual Community Holocaust Commemoration at the Courthouse will feature a special presentation on children in the Holocaust, a preview of the new exhibition on the life and legacy of local Survivor Henry Kinast, the recognition of the winners of the JCRC’s annual student Holocaust writing contest, the presentation of a proclamation by Youngstown Mayor John McNally, as well as a memorial candlelighting ceremony to honor the six million who perished. A special, community premiere of the Kinast exhibit will be held at the JCC on Sunday, June 19, 2016 (additional details to follow).

Both programs in May are free and open to the public. The Holocaust Commemoration and Education Task Force, a committee of the JCRC, is chaired by Rabbi Joseph Schonberger and Rochelle Miller, children of Holocaust Survivors, and is comprised of numerous Survivors, children of Survivors, and other interested volunteers from the community. For further information on the events, contact the JCRC at (330) 746-3251.

Another year, another flood for Houston’s Jews. What now?

By Jacob Kamaras/JNS.org

For the second straight year, this is a story that I wish I didn’t need to write. But for the second straight year, I’m left with no choice but to help my local Jewish community heal through the best way that I know how to do so—writing.

Leading up to May 2016, I was expecting to perhaps write a reflective piece on the one-year anniversary of Houston’s 2015 Memorial Day flood, which hit the city’s Jewish neighborhoods of Meyerland and Willow Meadows particularly hard. But my assignment editor—in this case, nature—had different plans.

On April 18, about 11 months after the previous flood, a deluge of similar magnitude wreaked renewed havoc on America’s fourth-largest city and its Jewish community. The 2015 flood damaged about 500 Jewish homes (among more than 2,500 homes overall) and three synagogues, including more than $1 million in damage for the congregation I belong to, United Orthodox Synagogues (UOS). The Jewish Federation of Greater Houston had already projected an 18-month recovery timetable, with a price tag of $3.5 million, for Jewish residents and their communal institutions following last year’s flood. It’s too early to assess the precise extent of the damage caused by 2016’s flood, which brought 16 inches of rain to the Houston area in less than a day, but the UOS synagogue facility was seemingly damaged even worse than it was last year.

In 2015, I lost a car in the Houston flood and had a brief frightening moment when an elevator I was riding in stalled at the bottom level. At the time, my minimal suffering paled in comparison to the plight of my synagogue and its home-owning families, about 80 of whom were affected by the flood and faced with life-altering decisions on how to rebuild their homes, or on the question of whether they could rebuild at all.

This year, the contrast was even sharper between my own experience and that of those who are most severely affected in the UOS community. I didn’t even lose a car, nor did I get stuck in an elevator. Homeowners in the synagogue community, meanwhile, are now faced with starting over from square one after already spending nearly a full year rebuilding or determining their rebuilding strategy. For this group, the material and psychological pain must be immeasurable. The synagogue itself is again displaced from its main sanctuary and dealing with questions about its long-term physical home, the same questions that were already ubiquitous throughout this past year. It came in the form of rabbinical sermons for Shabbat, Tisha B’Av, and Yom Kippur, and the constant discussions among friends about the community’s housing crisis.

Simply put, since May 2015, the flood essentially couldn’t be avoided in any aspect of communal life. For displaced homeowners, especially those who are displaced for the second year in a row, the natural question is, “What now?” For prospective homeowners in the synagogue community, including the so-called “young people” who are still renting apartments, the natural question could be, “Where to?” Synagogue leaders are trying their best to stay positive and upbeat.

“Thank you to everyone who has reached out…unfortunately we know the drill,” wrote UOS President Rick Gutman, whose home was among those already flooded last year, in an
Welcome to the world —
Lawren Isaac Rawl (seen here with dad, Michael Rawl.
Jan 13, 2016
20 inches, 7lbs 14 oz.
He is named for his Great Grandfather Lawrence Rawl, who came to America in 1948 after surviving the holocaust. Parents are Michael and Adrienne Rawl of Liberty and Congregation Rodef Sholom. He joins sisters Violet, 10, Ivy, 8, and brother Thomas 6. They all attend Akiva Academy.

Celebrating her special birthday —
Helen Passel of Hubbard, receives a giant hamantaschen birthday cake at Temple El Emeth’s annual Purim party.

Mazel Tov —
Anna Lee Clebone and Keith Jonathan Ruskin were married on Feb. 21 in an early evening ceremony in Maui, Hawaii, at the Sheraton Hotel. Bettina and Arnold Clebone are parents of the bride. Candy, Ilene and the late Lloyd Ruskin are parents of the groom.
Anna and Keith reside in Chicago Illinois. Both are physicians in the Department of Anesthesiology and Critical Care at the University of Chicago Hospital.

Share the Joy!
A new baby? An engagement? A wedding? Graduation (from high school, college or grad school?)
Jewish Journal readers want to read about your simchas. Families are invited to submit information and photographs to The Jewish Journal. Please be sure to include parents and grandparents names (if appropriate); names of schools/colleges and majors or degrees, with any honors awarded, and future plans; positions held by brides- and grooms-to-be.
Please send your news to — journal@jewishyoungstown.org. High resolution photos provided digitally offer the best reproduction. Photos sent through Facebook or via mobile phone may not print optimally.

SPOIL HER FOR A CHANGE!
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Good news —

Morrisa Clayman, daughter of Michael and Nina Clayman, is graduating with honors from Western Reserve Academy in Hudson, OH. At Reserve she was a four-year letterman on the girl’s tennis team as well as captain for her senior season. Morrisa will be attending Northeastern University in Boston to study international business and Spanish. Her first semester will be spent abroad at the prestigious McGill University in Montreal.

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Congratulations

Katie Einzig, daughter of Mindi and Art Einzig of Liberty, is engaged to Dan Fishman, son of Karyn and Jay Fishman of Chicago. They will be married in Chicago next April 17. Katie is an accounts executive at Kargo, the leading mobile brand advertising platform. The groom-to-be is an accountant.

The Journal wishes all mothers and grandmothers much happiness on Mother’s Day.
Every day, about 800 units of donated blood arrive at Israel’s only blood center. But Dr. Eilat Shinar “remains cool and collected as the day unfolds, never knowing what the next moment will bring,” explains Debbi Grinstein, endowment director of the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation, who met with Dr. Shinar in March.

Dr. Shinar introduces herself as Eilat — her parents named her after the city in southern Israel. She has been with the Blood Services Center at Magen David Adom for 28 years following a research fellowship at Harvard.

“Eilat is a face of Israel,” says Mrs. Grinstein. “Her personal story connects her to you. The Jewish community of the Mahoning and Shenango Valleys is connected as well. In 2013, we donated a full size ambulance to Magen David Adom in our Partnership2Gether region of Akko and the Western Galilee.”

As director of blood services for the entire county, Dr. Shinar is responsible Israel’s blood services that may be needed for basic surgical procedures to emergencies, large scale disasters, and the Israel Defense Forces.

“She is confident and proud of her team of technicians, most of whom are women, says Mrs. Grinstein. They type, test, and separate the blood for redistribution throughout the country.

Mrs. Grinstein describes Eilat as “protective,” because she recognizes the importance of platelets, plasma, gamma-globulin, and other products of blood are to the population.

The blood center she directs manages the National Blood Group Reference Laboratory, which supports the hospitals’ blood-banks, trying to solve and diagnose cases of patients with unidentified antibodies or rare blood subtypes and provides them with blood units from the regular or frozen-units, and the cord blood bank.

Stem cells, which have the potential to replace bone-marrow and other tissues in the body, and are currently used as an alternative source for transplantation in patients with congenital or malignant diseases — life saving technologically advanced services rarely found in the Middle East.

After serving in the IDF, Dr. Shinar acquired her medical education at the Hebrew University and Hadassah Medical Center in Jerusalem, Israel.

After obtaining her M.D. degree in 1976, she became a specialist in hematology, and worked for 13 years in the department of Hematology, at the Hadassah Medical Center in Jerusalem as a fellow and a senior physician.

For two years, she was a research fellow at Children Hospital and Harvard Medical School in Boston, MA., a period that was dedicated to the research of the structure and function of red blood cell membrane in thalassemia (Mediterranean Anemia).

In 1988 she joined Magen David Adom Blood Services to direct the hemapheresis unit. In 1992, she was nominated as the blood bank medical director and in 1997 as the director of the MDA Blood Services Division in Israel.

Prof. Shinar’s current areas of interest are transfusion medicine, blood donor recruitment, the detection and prevention of transfusion-transmitted diseases, the development of new technologies for blood collection, and novel uses of blood components.

She is a visiting associate professor in the Tel-Aviv University’s Faculty of Medicine and is the author of 84 scientific papers.

In Israel, she chairs the Advisory Committee for Blood Usage in Emergencies for the Israeli Ministry of Health, and is a member of the advisory committees of transfusion medicine and of AIDS prevention to the MOH.

In the International field, she is a member of the International Activities Committee of the American Association of Blood Banks, a member of the editorial board of the American Journal of Hematology and a member of the Health and Community Services Committee of the International Red Cross/Red Crescent.

Prof. Shinar is married to Yoram, a senior manager in Bank Leumi, and has three children.
Partnership enables international collaboration

This semester, Dr. Vered Vaknin-Nusbaum and Dr. Randa Abbas visited Westminster College in New Wilmington, PA, to share their insights from their teaching experiences and research in Israel with education and psychology students.

Dr. Abbas, Westminster’s 2013 Thomases Family Endowment visiting scholar co-taught in the education and psychology departments, and Dr. Vaknin-Nusbaum currently teaches at Western Galilee College, Akko, Israel.

Dr. Vaknin-Nusbaum shared the results of her current research project involving 2nd grade Arab children who receive tutoring from her Western Galilee College students. Dr. Abbas shared her research related to multicultural education and gender stereotypes.

Both educators also compared and contrasted the curriculum in Jewish, Arab and Muslim schools versus American schools.

Prof. DVaknin-Nusbaum and Prof. Mandy Medvin, professor of psychology, and Dr. Linda Domanski, professor of education.

The article, “We Don’t Talk About that Here”: Teachers, Religion, Public Elementary Schools and the Embodiment of Silence a Binational United States and Israel Study” submitted to Theory and Research in Social Education by Dr. Amy Camardese, Dr. Tina Keller, and Dr. Randa Abbas.

The conference presentation, “Continuity and Change in Americans’ Perception of Arab Women in the Middle East” by Dr. Sherri Pataki and Dr. Randa Abbas.


The Youngstown Area Jewish Federation is a member of the Partnership-2Gether Central Area Consortium.

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Fellowship gift cards support more than 13,000 IDF soldiers in need and Lone Soldiers

JERUSALEM, April 18 – The International Fellowship of Christians and Jews (The Fellowship) and Friends of the Israel Defense Forces, in collaboration with the Association for the Well-being of Israel’s Soldiers, have provided “Fellowship Gift Cards” to more than 13,000 soldiers in need and Lone Soldiers currently serving in the Israel Defense Forces so they could celebrate Passover without financial worries.

The amount of each gift card is NIS 500, or about $130. Soldiers are able to purchase supplies such as food, clothing, shoes, sports, and leisure items.

Among the soldiers who receive this financial support are about 3,000 Lone Soldiers – young men and women who choose to leave their countries of origin to immigrate to Israel and serve in the IDF. Every year, Lone Soldiers come to Israel from across the Diaspora to join in Israel’s defense and become part of Israel’s melting pot.

The Fellowship and FIDF distribute “Fellowship Gift Cards” twice a year, during Rosh Hashanah and Passover. This campaign is administered in collaboration with the IDF Personnel Directorate and reaches every eligible IDF soldier.

The International Fellowship of Christians and Jews (IFCJ) 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.

Led by its founder and president, Rabbi Yechiel Eckstein, IFCJ now raises more than $140 million per year, mostly from Christians, to assist Israel and the Jewish people. Since its founding, IFCJ has raised more than $1.3 billion for this work. The organization has offices in Jerusalem, Chicago, Miami, Toronto, Seoul, and Sao Paulo. For more information, visit www.ifcj.org.

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Houston flooding
(Continued from p. 5)

April 19 email to congregants. “However, we are immeasurably strengthened by our tremendous community that shows its strength in the way we treat each other like family. This morning, while assessing the damage in our shul building, I spent time speaking with a new member of our community, herself and family victims of flooding and requiring rescue. She exclaimed to me about how our amazing community has treated them, and the wonderful actions of countless individuals who have supported her family. I am warmed by the reminder that our community, though suffering from flooding twice in less than a year, continues to provide support and comfort to those in need in such a way that Houston and the entire Jewish world can be proud of. Our community’s positive outlook will be a blessing as we assist our friends, rebuild our shul, and move forward.”

Editor’s note: Jacob Kamaras is the managing director and editor in chief of the Jewish News Service.
This Yom HaAtzma’ut, celebrate red, white, and blue.

Magen David Adom, Israel’s largest and premier emergency medical response agency, has been saving lives since before 1948. And supporters like you provide MDA’s 27,000 paramedics, EMTs, and civilian life guardians — more than 90% of them volunteers — with the training, equipment, and rescue vehicles they need. So as we celebrate Israel’s independence, make a difference in the health, welfare, and security of the Israeli people with your gift to MDA. Please give today.

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An Arab woman in Israeli Society

From left: Alan Kretzer, president of the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation, Shliach Gon Erez, Dr. Dalia Fadila, Shlicha Shai Erez, and Mrs. Randa Shabayek of the Youngstown-area’s Muslim community at the JCC.

Dalia Fadila is at once an Israeli, a Palestinian, an Arab, and a Muslim. And, she says, “This multiplicity of identities is definitely a ‘complication.’”

Moreover, Dr. Fadila is the first woman in her family to study at University. Her father insisted that his daughter get her education before she was married. But, as she explains, “My aunt told my father that he was making a big mistake. She said, ‘You’re pickling your daughter,’” as if her status would forever put her away on a shelf.

However, she said, “We refuse to be seen as ‘infidels’ who won’t follow the ways of earlier generations. We’re empowering our tradition not leaving it.

She says she’s the proof that a modern Muslim woman can be married, have a family, and live a liberal open life. “Being married with three children who can hold on to her husband, gives you credibility she says.

Currently the president of Al Qasemi Engineering and Science College, Dr. Fadila has served in the past eight years as provost of Al-Qasemi Teacher Training College, an Arab college of education in Israel and acted as the president of the college during 2006. Dr. Fadila is an expert on organizational development, educational entrepreneurship, and a researcher of American literature, women’s literature and ethnic studies.

She has led and managed national and international seminars and projects on issues of gender, culture, identity and education.

As an educational pioneer within her community, Dr. Fadila identified the conflicts and clashes arising from four different educational systems that are all governed by Israel’s Ministry of Education.

She said, the Arab system of education has no mission. “It’s still operating with 1950s’ attitudes.” Teachers in the system are not professionals and still rely on memorization rather than learning how to think.

However, she explained, when she has tried to talk about improving the Arab schools, she’s been told, “it’s not our culture.” “You’re being ‘jewished.” She has continued to insist, “You can be successful and Arab.”

Eighty percent of Arab women in Israel are neither educated, nor employed,” she says, “And the 20 percent who are employed work in low-income jobs. There are 12,000 unemployed Arab women with degrees in teacher education.”

She wants to see those women move from “victimhood to empowerment.” Dr. Dalia Fadila intends to continue building her society from within. “With all I have,” she said, “I should give back.”
Nimrod Erez, a hero of the Israeli Navy (and father of Shliach Gonen Erez) told those attending a Memorial Service for Fallen IDF Soldiers that first, he had to learn about boats.

Israeli hero pays tribute to the fallen heroes of Israel’s wars

His very name, “Nimrod”, is a biblical reference meaning “mighty hunter,” the great-great-grandson of Noah. But Major Nimrod Erez was not celebrated for hunting in the fields. Rather, like the great-grandfather of his namesake, Mr. Erez achieved his renown on the water, for his part in the destruction of the Syrian and Egyptian navies during the Yom Kippur War.

He discussed his service at Memorial Service for I.D.F. Fallen Soldiers held at the Jewish Community Center on April 18.

Coming under fire, he said, “a bullet whizzed past my ear where my head had been moments earlier.” He was wounded in the battle.

Maj. Erez said it was reading about John. F. Kennedy’s exploits in World War II that influenced him to become a naval officer. Kennedy earned the U.S. Navy’s highest honor for gallantry for his heroic actions as a gunboat pilot during World War II in 1944. The future president also received a Purple Heart for wounds received during battle.

Maj. Erez’s father had told him, “When you grow up, you will never have to fight.”

But Maj. Erez says he now knows that not only did he have to fight, and his children, and his grandchildren.

Almost all Israeli Jewish young people serve for two years in the Israeli Defence Forces.

Maj. Erez pointed out that many Jews survived the Holocaust, only to come to Israel and then die in one of wars.

In addition to Maj Erez’s presentation, Rabbi Joseph Schonberger recited the Yizkor prayer for remembrance. Student Abigail Sharf said “David’s Lamentation,” a prayer she had written.

Gonen Erez, with his mother, Yehudit, and Nya Aron sang Naomi Shemer’s “Lu Yehi. Rabbi Oresky chanted El Malei Rachaim.

After a prayer for the State of Israel, the audience sang Hatikvah.

More than 120 people attended the event.
ADULT PROGRAMMING

For more information, contact: Darlene Muller 330-746-3250 Ext. 106 Or Dmuller@jccyoungstown.org.

MATILDA

Winner of 50 international awards, including four Tony Awards, Matilda the Musical is the story of an extraordinary girl who dares to take a stand and change her own destiny. Based on the beloved novel by Roald Dahl, Matilda continues to thrill sold out audiences of all ages on Broadway and in London’s West End. The Wall Street Journal says, “The Makers of ‘Matilda’ have done the impossible triumphantly!” Price includes orchestra seat, transportation, and tip for the bus driver. Dinner on your own.

Date: Sunday, May 22
Location: Cleveland, OH
Leave JCC: 11:00 a.m. | Return: 7:00 p.m.
Orchestra: $100/Member $115/Non Member
Dress Circle: $110/Member $130/Non Member

The PHANTOM of the OPERA

Critics are raving that this breathtaking production is “bigger and better than ever before.” The beloved story and thrilling score with songs like “Music of the Night,” “All I Ask of You,” and “Masquerade” is performed by a cast and orchestra of 52, making this Phantom one of the largest productions now on tour. Price includes seating, transportation and tip for the bus driver.

Dinner on your own.

Date: Thursday, July 7 | Cleveland, OH
Leave JCC: 5:00 p.m. | Return: 11:30 p.m.
Orchestra: $85/Member $95/Non Member
Dress Circle: $115/Member $130/Non Member

Movie and Lunch Bunch

The Age of Adaline

Blake Lively is captivating as Adaline, a 29-year-old who survives a near-death experience and from that day on, never grows older. Adaline guards her secret and her heart for eight decades until a charming philanthropist, and his parents force Adaline to confront her destiny in this unforgettable tale about the timeless power of love. Price includes movie and light lunch.

Date: Thursday, May 26
Time: Noon-2:00 p.m. | Location: Multi-Purpose Room
$5/Member $7/Non Member | $10 after May 10

J Café — Boardman Jazz Band

Always a crowd favorite, the Boardman Jazz Band will once again perform at the JCC. They have performed at numerous jazz festivals, community events and concerts including venues at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in Cleveland and South Street Seaport in New York City. Don’t miss this wonderful performance! Price includes lunch and lecture.

Date: Thursday, May 19
Time: Noon – 1:30 p.m.
Location: Multi-Purpose Room
Cost: $8/Member | $10/Non Member

Summer Stock at the JCC

TUESDAYS WITH MORRIE

The best-selling book is now a play and is coming to the JCC for one weekend only. Tuesdays with Morrie is the final lesson between a college professor, Morrie, and one of his long-lost students and the author of the book, Mitch Albom. After seeing his professor in an interview on the show “Nightline,” the author is reminded of a promise he made 16 years before to keep in touch with him. A worldwide phenomenon, the book has sold more than 15 million copies. Seating is limited.

Date: Thursday, Friday, Saturday, May 12, 13, 14
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Date: Sunday, May 15 | Time: 2:30 p.m.
Cost: $20 — Register online at jccyoungstown.org

Nolatet

A night of unforgettable music at the JCC featuring Brian Haas, Mike Dillon, James Singleton & Johnny Vidacovich. Steeped in the grand tradition of New Orleans, all four musicians are fiercely independent icons, clasts and bandleaders who compose, play and navigate their musical lives in their own unique way. The musicians have played with such musical icons as Dizzy Gillespie, Prof. Longhair, James Booker, Charlie Hunter, Robert Walter, John Medeski and John Scofield. You won’t want to miss this one-of-a-kind event! Cash Bar available.

Date: May 9
Free Masterclass Workshop
Time: 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

YOUTH PROGRAMMING

For more on Youth Programming, contact Emily Collins 330-746-3250 Ext. 152 or Ecollins@jccyoungstown.org.

Camp JCC registration now open

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

CIRCUS OF THE KIDS!

We want YOU to join the circus at Camp JCC! June 26 – July 1

You won’t find another camp like this anywhere in the Youngstown area! Learn amazing skills such as trapeze and acrobatics from circus professionals. Then end the week with performances for your family and friends! Visit circusofthekids.com to learn more.

Advanced Specialty Camps

Older campers can choose from Broadway 360 with Liz Rubino, Website Design & Development and Newscaster Camp! Register online today at jccyoungstown.org

Kids Fitness Fun!

Let’s get moving with three days of fitness activities geared towards kids including Drums Alive, Kids Cardio Craziness and Pickleball. We’ll get our heart rates up while having fun at the same time!

Date: May 3, 4, 5
Time: 3:30 – 4:30 p.m.
Location: JCC
$15/Member $20/Non Member
Yom Ha’Atzmaut
Join us as we celebrate Israel Independence Day at the JCC. The celebration will feature a performance by Israeli-American comedian Benji Lovitt. We’ll enjoy traditional foods, singing and dancing and a special program for teens including a movie and refreshments.

Date: May 16
Time: Festivities begin at 5:30 p.m.
Location: The JCC

Living Room Lecture
This is a great opportunity to learn more about Israel. Gon and Shay, our Israeli Shlichim will come to your home and deliver a lecture on a variety of Israeli topics. You provide the space, Gon and Shay will bring their wealth of knowledge about Israel.

Minimum participants: 4 Adults

Free event: A Taste of Israel — An in-home cooking lesson
Want to learn how to make traditional Israeli food in your own home? Gon and Shay, our Israeli Shlichim will teach you how to make a delicious Israeli meal in your own kitchen. They will provide all the ingredients needed and even wash the dishes!

Cost: $15 per person
Minimum participants: 4 Adults

To schedule your cooking lesson or lecture contact: Gon Erez 330-746-3250 ext. 195 or gerez@jewishyoungstown.org

LRS Broadway 360 at camp JCC
The Little Mermaid, Jr (Ages 9-17)
Advanced specialty camp for youth who love to sing, dance and act! This full circle experience teaches group building, the casting process, theatre specialties like costume design, vocal production and dance forms. We’ll also rehearse for the hit Disney on Broadway musical, The Little Mermaid Jr., which will be performed for the public on Saturday, July 16 at 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. See the Camp JCC guide for details.

Drama Therapy (Ages 5-Adult)
Drama therapy is an active, experiential approach to facilitating change. Through storytelling, projective play, purposeful improvisation, and performance, participants are invited to rehearse desired behaviors, practice being in relationship, expand and find flexibility between life roles, and perform the changes they wish to be and see in the world.

55-minute sessions
$55/Member $65/Non Member

Jr. Voice Lessons (Ages 5-8)
Introduction to voice for youth is taught by qualified LRS teaching apprentices. Liz Rubino is available for an additional fee upon request.

30-minute sessions
$20/Member $30/Non Member

Children’s Yoga
The profound power of yoga is truly a gift that keeps on giving. Just to name a few of the many benefits: increases self-esteem, sparks creativity in ripe imaginations and teaches discipline and responsibility. Let your child experience the amazing benefits of yoga. The ages for this unique class are 6-13.

Date: Tues/Thurs
Time: 3:30-4:25 p.m.

Total Body Fitness
For strength, flexibility, balance, agility, cardio, and endurance, join this class each week. The instructor will emphasize a specific muscle group, accompanied with various resistance modalities, changing it up each week. Come in and challenge yourself to the next level.

Date: Tues/Thurs
Time: 4:30-5:25 p.m.

AQUATICS
For more information on Aquatics, contact Caroline McDermott, 330-746-3250 ext. 112 or aquatics@jccyoungstown.org

You & Me Baby
This is a monthly class where parents assist their children in the water. Children will learn how to float on their backs and stomachs and will improve their motor skills.

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

Learn-to-Swim ages 3 & up
The deadline to register is the 25th of the previous month. (May 25 for June classes)
Classes are closed when we reach 12 participants. Once lessons reach their maximum each month, a waitlist for additional classes will be taken. Please register early.

$25/Member $40 Non Member | Min: 3, Max 4-6 (depending on level)

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
$99/Member | $110/Non Member

(Continued on p. 15)
Suzi Solomon Golf Classic

On Monday, June 13, the Jewish Community Center of Youngstown will hold its 18th Annual Suzi Solomon Golf Classic at the Avalon Golf and Country Club – Squaw Creek Golf Course.

The event includes 18 holes of golf, along with lunch and dinner. During dinner we will feature a raffle of wonderful prizes and an auction of spectacular items, including sports memorabilia, golf trips, and tickets to sporting events.

Please join us for the entire day or just for a marvelous dinner. Go to www.jccyoungstown.org and click on the Suzi Solomon Golf Outing button to register or call us at 330-746-3251.

Remembrance Month at the JCC Library

May is a month of remembrance. The calendar lists May 5 as Holocaust Remembrance Day, May 11 as Israel Remembrance Day, May 12 as Israel Independence Day, and May 30 as Memorial Day.

The Jewish Community Center library honors the past by providing books for the present generation to remember. The library will have on display a variety of books and materials about each of the special days for readers to peruse and check out. We learn from the past to make the future a better place.

New Books at the JCC Library

Master of Ceremonies by Joel Grey. This wonderful autobiography lets readers view the “behind-the-scenes” life of Joel Grey from his early childhood in the 1930s growing up in Cleveland, OH, to his career on Broadway in such notable successes as the musical Cabaret. Recommended by Fran Dreyfus.

Measure of a Man: From Auschwitz Survivor to Presidents’ Tailor by Martin Greenfield with Wynton Hall. This is an amazing true story of how Martin used the shirt of an SS Officer to change his destiny from destruction to a career path that would take him to the White House. Recommended by the JCC Library book club.

Library Book Club

The next meeting of the Library Book Club is May 19 at 1:30 p.m. in the JCC Schwartz Judaica Library. Up for discussion, B.A. Shapiro’s The Muralist.

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Israel’s Memorial Day and Independence Day eternally entwined

Yom Ha’Atzmaut
ISRAEL INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION

MAY 16, 2016

JOIN US AS WE CELEBRATE ISRAEL INDEPENDENCE DAY FEATURING:
A performance by Israeli-American comedian Benji Lovitt
Traditional Foods
Singing and Dancing
A Special Program For Teens
(Movie and Refreshments)

FESTIVITIES BEGIN AT 5:30 P.M.
at the JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER
This event is FREE and open to the public

RSVP to Gon Erez | 330-746-3250 ext.159 | Gerez@jewishyoungstown.org
www.jccyoungstown.org

Israel, unlike many other countries, does not hold its Memorial Day (Yom Hazikaron) and Independence Day (Yom Ha’atzmaut) at a distance from one another. In fact, when Yom Hazikaron ends, Yom Ha’atzmaut immediately begins.

If you’ve ever been to Israel at that time of the year, you would understand what I’m talking about. If you’ve ever been able to take part in Yom Hazikaron and Yom Ha’atzmaut events, you probably sensed inside your bones how different these commemorations are in Israel.

Yom Hazikaron is one of two days where the entire country stops and grieves. The other is Yom Hashoah, Holocaust Day). The television and radio stations stop broadcasting their usual programs, or they broadcast only relevant content for this day. Some choose to show a black screen, as a sign of honor.

Schools curricula are changed as well and are instead dedicated to programs that explain and teach us about people, history and values. Each school organizes a service in memory of the fallen soldiers and victims of terror actions. The service is usually conducted by 16 and 17 years old kids at the school, those who will soon be joining the IDF themselves. Some schools hold an evening service as well, allowing former students (who are now soldiers) and other people to attend.

I will never forget how powerful the first year of going to the service was after we graduated. Seeing my classmates in uniform attending their old high school service was a remarkable and petrifying sight. We were the soldiers then. A speaker would read aloud the names of the soldiers who had gone to my school but were no longer with us, and we could only pray to never hear a familiar name.

Unfortunately, with our reality, everyone hears a familiar name being read — including us.

Two sirens wail on this day: one in the evening (when Yom Hazikaron begins, according to the Jewish calendar) and one on the next day. One lasts for a minute, and one lasts for two minutes. Each asks us to dedicate our thoughts, for a few seconds, to those who are no longer with us.

When the day of Yom Hazikaron turns into night, the entire country is taking a deep breath and dives into Yom Ha’atzmaut celebrations.

The blue, white, and black turn into blue, white, pink, purple, red, and any other festive color you can think of. Stages, markets, and performances are popping up everywhere. The crowds go out into the streets to sing, dance, party, and spray each other with white foam. (Don’t ask me why — it’s the tradition). The country becomes one big party zone, with fireworks and music. The TV channels are screening the special ceremonies for this day, and everyone walks and dances around until the next morning. The day of Yom Ha’atzmaut is usually dedicated to family and friends, barbecuing or traveling together and enjoying our day off.

I must admit, I can’t help but wonder what it sounds like for someone from outside, who didn’t grow up in this reality. How can a country and its citizens move from the deepest state of mourning to an extreme high of happiness?

In our country, there is an ongoing debate. Some families who have lost dear ones are saying it is impossible for them to go between extreme emotions in a manner of seconds, and ask the government to put a “break” day between Yom Hazikaron and Yom Ha’atzmaut, so they can honor the family and friends who are no longer with us, and yet be able to come out and celebrate Israel on its independence day.

Whether those two days stay the way they occur now or if we will have some days in between, mentally, those days will always come together for us Israelis.

If you want to fully capture the essence of Israel, you know that no Independence Day is whole, without remembering Yom Hazikaron.

Please join us for Israeli Independence Day on May 16 at 5:30 p.m. We can promise you a good time and wonderful comedy show, (Along with traditional food, music etc). Your Shlichim.

Gon and Shai Erez

Jewish Community Center (cont’d from p. 13)

The CDC at the JCC

Enrollment is now open at our award-winning Child Development Center. We offer top-level care for children 6 weeks to 12 years old. Our program is a Step Up To Quality 4 star award winner that offers innovative programming, and qualified, degreed or certified teachers who are excited to be a part of your child’s learning. Come see why we are one of the highest award-winning childcare facilities in the area.

Free/Member $5/Non Member
Birdwatcher unearths a Passover ‘gift’ from a pharaoh

A rare scarab seal belonging to a senior Egyptian official of the Thirteenth Pharaonic Dynasty (the 18th-17th centuries BCE) has been found at Tel Dor on Israel’s Carmel Coast. The seal was discovered by Alexander Ternopolsky, a birdwatcher, who handed it over to the archeological team working at the site.

“These findings may be attributed to the mechanisms of directly witnessing the multiple maximal adversities to the most important people in their lives, while they themselves fled in the knowledge of what was happening to their relatives, their friends, colleagues and their communities,” said Professor Stephen Levine of the University of Haifa.

“The scarab must have belonged to a very senior figure in the kingdom, probably the viceroy responsible for the royal treasury,” explains Prof. Ayelet Gilboa from the Department of Archeology at the University of Haifa, who is heading the excavations at Tel Dor together with Prof. Ilan Sharon from the Hebrew University in Jerusalem.

“The owner of this scarab filled a similar position to that held by Joseph in Egypt after he interpreted Pharaoh’s dreams,” he said.

The coastal city of Dor, at the foot of Mt. Carmel, was a key port city for thousands of years. Until the Romans built Caesarea, Dor was the most important commercial center in the area and served as a hub for commercial and passenger traffic throughout extensive periods in human history. The city is mentioned in Egyptian inscriptions dating back 3500 years, and even in the Books of Joshua, Judges, and I Kings in the Bible.

Excavations began at Tel Dor in the mid-twentieth century and have been directed since 2002 by Prof. Gilboa and Prof. Sharon. Findings include settlements from the Late Bronze Age (the Canaanite period in the second millennium BCE), as well as a Phoenician settlement and Israelite and Assyrian administrative centers (Iron Age); a city and palace from the Hellenistic period, including a splendid mosaic; and monumental remains from the Roman period, including a pair of temples that may have been dedicated to Poseidon, the god of the sea. “We have not yet reached the settlement of the 17th century BCE,” Prof. Gilboa explains, “and this is why this finding is particularly important. The rains this past winter must have eroded the soil on the southern slope of the site, and thanks to Mr. Ternopolsky’s keen eyesight, the scarab was discovered and handed over to us.”

A preliminary study showed that the stone scarab is engraved with the name of its owner, as well as his position and ankh symbols (crosses with a looped head), which symbolized eternal life, and pillar-like djed symbols that emblemized resurrection and stability. The description of the scarab owner’s position includes such phrases as “overseer the treasury,” “bearer of the seal,” and more, but the owner’s name has not yet been deciphered. “Scarabs were very common objects in ancient Egypt, (Continued on p. 20)
Sisterhood wrapping up its year

By Mary Lou Finesilver

Well, I guess that I missed the fact that March was Women’s History Month. Did I ever tell you about my sister Raysa Rose Bonow? She was born in 1930 and died in 2011 and she sure packed a lot of living in those 81 years.

Raysa was born and raised way before her time. We grew up in Johnstown, PA. Raysa left the nest to go to college at Penn State University for two years. Then when the family moved to Weirton, WV, she changed and went to West Virginia U. where she graduated with a degree in business administration in 1952. With her usual panache, she got a job in Washington DC with — would you believe? — the CIA.

At that time, I was living in New York, and she decided that would be more exciting. So she gave up working for the CIA, moved in with me, and ended up working on the Encyclopedia Britannica. To this day not sure what she did there.

In 1955, our folks moved to Youngstown, and Dad went to work for Haber Furniture. We decided to join them. Raysa at first got a job with McKelvey’s doing copywriting, then left there to work at WKBV-TV. I think she also did copywriting there, but also developed a few shows for them.

In 1957 she left Youngstown and moved back to New York City with her friend Clay Cole, or as some of you may remember, Al Rucker. He had a children’s program here, but moved to New York and got into the music world. Raysa landed a job at NBC. While there she produced a show called “People,” a take-off on the magazine. She also worked in Pittsburgh at KDKA, and then moved to California, where she worked in television.

Then, it was on to Philadelphia, and eventually reached Boston, where she produced a show called “Live,” which I believe lasted about five years.

When that dried up, and she was considered too old (?) for TV, Raysa went into selling real estate and joined the million dollar sales club.

Sometime around the year 2000, she and her significant other moved to North Carolina and tried her hand at real estate there. Her next move last was back to Youngstown to be near family.

Raysa was an innovator and mover. She became one of the first women in television behind the camera, directing and producing. I have left out much of her very colorful and varied life, I know. But I have space constraints with the journal so if you are interested in learning more about my sister, Raysa Rose Bonow, go on the computer to Jewish Women’s Archive. If the computer is not your thing then call me and I’ll get you a copy.

Now on to the big bucks: Sisterhood Shabbat takes place on Friday, May 6. Ronna Marlin and Elyse Silverman have worked hard to make this a beautiful Shabbat Service and dinner. Please let them know if you will participate in the service, and for goodness sake, get your family and friends to join us.

Sisterhood’s closing meeting of the year is May 10. The board meeting will be at 10:45 then lunch at noon. At this meeting we will be presenting pins to the Torah Fund Benefactors. Holly Small has done an excellent job with the Torah Fund, and we are all very pleased that we were able to present a nice donation to Women’s League for Conservative Judaism.

The main thrust of the meeting will be Ronna Marlin installing the new slate of officers and board members. Please come out and give them your support. We are thrilled with some new people to welcome to the board.

Thanks for a very special donation to Sisterhood by Shawn and Courtneype, Jaclyn, Samuel and Jacob Silverman for the honor bestowed on their mother Jane at the Sisterhood Donor luncheon. Also, I would like to give a shout out to Sheila Evenchik for being our Honorable Mensch for April in memory of her parents Saul and Gert Eichenbaum. Those of you of who were around when we were Anshe Emeth and newly merged as El Emeth will remember them as great assets to Temple and Sisterhood. Until we talk again, be well. Shalom!
Expanding the true meaning of Exodus

By Rabbi Frank Muller
Congregation Rodef Sholom

Passover tells the fundamental story of being a Jew. We wandered down to Egypt and there became a great nation. But the Egyptians mistreated us, and forced us to be slaves. We cried out to God, and God heard our cry, bringing us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm. God brought us to the land of Israel to be a free people in our own land. To be a Jew is to accept this narrative about our people.

But is the narrative true? Were we really slaves in Egypt? Did God really hear our cry? Did God bring us out of bondage? A number of years ago, Rabbi David Wolpe, noted Jewish author and leader of one of the largest Conservative congregations in the country, created a stir amongst his congregants in Los Angeles by saying that perhaps the story is not totally true. Maybe it did not happen precisely as the story tells it. Rabbi Wolpe found himself castigated by members of his congregation as well as the press. “Rabbi Denies the Torah,” screamed the headline.

Does a narrative have to be literally true to be true? Does it need to correspond with historical reality to make a difference in our lives? Are all the great narratives of the Bible such as the Garden of Eden, Noah’s Ark, the Binding of Isaac, the Golden Calf, the story of David and Goliath, Elijah going to heaven in a chariot, or the Exodus from Egypt literally true? Or do they contain profound truths about the reality of our lives, whether they actually happened or not?

Karen Armstrong, the British scholar of religion, speaks of two kinds of truth in her wonderful book, The Case for God. First there is logos, what we often call scientific truth. Then there is mythos, which is the narratives, allegories and insights that help us understand our place in the world. According to Armstrong, our culture tends to overplay logos and downplay mythos. Yet it is mythos that often has the more important insights into how we are to live our lives.

The story of the Exodus is mythos. It is the story of a universe that allows people to go out from the narrow place (the literal meaning of mitzrayim is “Egypt”) into a wide place. It is the story of redemption, not just the redemption of the people of Israel long ago, but the redemption of each of us every day. We are all slaves to something in our own lives. We all can cry out to the universe, and the universe is made in such a way in which people can change. Thus the story yields a profound truth.

Some of us are enslaved by blind prejudice that keeps us from getting to know our neighbors and seeing people as they really are. Some of us are enslaved by tyrannical habits that rule over us with an iron fist. Some of us are kept in bondage by ignorance and superstition that stunt the mind and suffocate the spirit. Some of us are fettered by fears and anxieties that disturb our days and haunt our nights. Some of us are imprisoned by greed and mean ambition, by status-seeking and phony values. Some of us are shackled by jealousy that sours us, hatred that poisons us, and self doubt that disables us.

Now that the week of Passover is almost over, putting away all the Pesadik foods, dishes and accoutrements will be easier than all the preparations which were required to get ready for the holiday. It is also a pleasure, if not a relief, to put the matzah away and start eating bread products again.

But believe it or not, the toughest task connected with Passover is not in the preparation, the execution, or the completion of the seven- or eight-day observance of the festival. The hardest part is to experience an Exodus, if you will, from the bondage in which so many tyrants, the tyrants of our own making, hold us.

What are you doing to dethrone the inner pharaohs who hold you in bondage? May each of us experience true liberation by walking out into the sunshine of freedom which Passover summons us. This can be the greatest truth of all.

Darlene joins me in hoping all of you experienced a sweet, uplifting, and liberating Pesach this year.

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Hilari Lipkin writes, “Sitting in our sanctuary, during the High Holidays, I was struck with a sense of awe as I looked around our congregation. I could feel the presence of souls that came before, were with me on that day, and the souls of those yet to come.” She continues, “I felt a responsibility to celebrate this great congregation. I felt the need to celebrate her past, get more involved with her present, and work to provide her future.”

Part of 150th anniversary celebration will include a speakers series, a written history of Rodef Sholom and its congregants, as well as Havorah groups to advance learning. Teens, children, and adults will all have something to learn and relate to.

The Steering Committee has been reviewing the many activities being planned for the coming year. Guest speakers are planned for almost every month.
**May at Rodef Sholom**

The Sisterhood/Brotherhood Shabbat Service will be at 6 p.m., Friday, May 6. Members of both organizations will participate in the service which will be followed by an Oneg in Handler Hall. R.S.V.P. to the Temple office by May 3.

The 150th Anniversary Summit Meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 10, from 5-8 p.m. in Handler Hall.

Simchat Shabbat Service and dinner is scheduled for Friday, May 13, at 6 p.m. in Tamarkin Chapel. The theme of the evening will be “Formative Jewish Experiences,” and the service will be led by the children of the congregation using the new prayer book *Mishkan T’Filah for Youth*. This “Joyous Shabbat” service is meant to be a family celebration with special blessings for those who are celebrating birthdays or anniversaries in the month of May. Dinner and presentations will follow the service with a menu of traditional Shabbat chicken and a special Simchat cake for dessert.

Reservations are required for this event. A nominal charge of $8.50 per adult, or $20 per family is due by Tuesday, May 10. No phone/email reservations will be accepted.

The Annual Congregation Rodef Sholom Sisterhood Donor Brunch will be held in Strouss Hall on Sunday, May 15, at 12:30. A style show featuring fashions from Suzanne’s in Boardman and live music will be preceded by an elegant champagne brunch. Reservations for this event should be received at the Temple by Tuesday, May 10, but tickets may be purchased at the door on the day of the event. Please call the office for more information.

The Social Action Committee will host a family day at Second Harvest Food Bank on Sunday, May 22, from 9:30 a.m. to noon. Everyone is encouraged to attend, and children eight years old and older are welcome. Participating together as a community in the mitzvah of helping others is an appreciated and a valuable lesson in volunteering and sharing. R.S.V.P. to the Temple office, 330-744-5001, by Thursday, May 19. A light breakfast will be served to volunteers.

The Temple Office will be closed Monday, May 30, for Memorial Day.

New officers of the Congregation Rodef Sholom Board of Trustees will be installed at Shabbat service on Friday, June 3. Current President Jeff Simon will be honored as the congregation welcomes the new officers:

- President: Dr. Arthur Greenbaum
- Vice President: Alden Chevlen
- Treasurer: Aaron Hively
- Secretary: Tod Newman
- Trustee: Ron Heiman
- Trustee: Jane Pollack
- Trustee: Audrey Schwebel

**Shabbat Services – 6 p.m.**

- May 6 Sisterhood and Brotherhood Shabbat Service
- May 13 Simchat Shabbat Service and Dinner
- May 20 Shabbat Service
- May 27 Shabbat Service
- June 3 Shabbat Service and Board Installation

Congregation Rodef Sholom is seeking a grand piano for use in the sanctuary. If anyone is aware of a piano that could be donated, please contact Rabbi Muller or the Temple Office: 330-744-5001.

As you read this, we are celebrating the Jewish holiday, Passover. We have enjoyed an outstanding first night Seder at our Temple with all the tables shining. Kudos to Inspired Catering, Jack Kravitz, and his entire crew for making the delicious Passover Seder more than enjoyable!

Thank you to Rabbi Muller who always makes the Seder service a new experience of the meaningful Passover story. Rabbi’s dedication and energy provides purpose and inspiration that last many more than the eight days of Passover.

To my Sisterhood members who always answer the call, thank you for your hard work and time in preparing the tables and making the social hall dazzling for everyone to enjoy.

As we settle into this beautiful holiday, I am inspired by the lessons in leadership that was displayed by Miriam, who showed strength and courage throughout the story of Exodus.

I then reflect on my own Sisterhood, and I am moved by their dedication to continue to make Congregation Rodef Sholom Sisterhood stronger together.

As women of Reform Judaism, may we always have the courage and inspiration of Miriam.

In a few weeks, I will be attending the WRJ (Women for Reform Judaism) Central District Retreat Kallah. This is an informative workshop held at the Goldman Union Camp Institute in Zionsville, IN. The WRJ district women will be coming together to share a warm Shabbat Ruach. I am excited for this opportunity and look forward to sharing the retreat information which will help to strengthen our Sisterhood.

Chag Pesach Sameach

Upcoming Dates to Remember

- May 15th from 12:30 pm-2:30 pm at Congregation Rodef Sholom will be our Donor Brunch & Fashion Show by Suzanne’s.
- Rabbi Eliezer teaches, “Let your neighbor’s honor be as dear to you as your own.”
- I look forward to seeing everyone at our next event.

Your Sisterhood President,

Sally Blau
Mexico’s president tells expatriates in the U.S. to unify like the Jews

Mexico's president tells expatriates in the U.S. to unify like the Jews for the 150th Celebration weekend. The call was announced by the newly appointed Mexican ambassador to the United States, Carlos Manuel Sada, during an interview last week with the Noticanarias news portal, and made headlines in the Latin American Jewish press.

Unity among the 35 million Mexicans and their descendants in the United States — including 6 million residents, as many undocumented workers and another 23 million U.S.-born descendants — is urgent, Sada added, due to the rise of Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump.

"Trump's latest speech after his victory in New York mentioned Mexico again, which makes us vulnerable, certainly because we haven't had a systematic strategy, which is part of a new strategy we are launching," Sada said. "We'll find models for promotion, dissemination and communication."

All 58 Mexican consulates in the U.S. will join the effort in a special public relations campaign aimed at strengthening Mexico's image and responding to distorted, biased attacks during the electoral period in America, he added.

Last month, Pena Nieto compared Trump's rhetoric to that of Adolf Hitler and Benito Mussolini, and said it has hurt U.S.-Mexico relations.

Trump has sparked outrage in Mexico with his campaign pledge to build a wall along the southern U.S. border to keep out illegal immigrants and drugs, and to make Mexico pay for the construction. He also accused Mexico of sending rapists and drug runners across the border, and vowed to increase fees on some Mexican visas and all border crossing cards to help make Mexico pay for the proposed wall.

"There have been episodes in human history, unfortunately, where these expressions of this strident rhetoric have only led to very ominous situations in the history of humanity," Pena Nieto said last month. "That's how Mussolini got in, that's how Hitler got in; they took advantage of a situation, a problem perhaps, which humanity was going through at the time, after an economic crisis."

Tel Dor artifact (continued from p. 16)

but the size and quality of this one, its owner's high-ranking position, and the gold ring in which it is set all make this particular scarab a rare finding in our region," Prof. Gilboa explains.

The excavators suggest two possible scenarios for the manner the scarab might have reached Dor. The first is that a representative of the viceroy may have come to this important trading city, which was a supply base for spices, resin, and other commodities that were highly valued by the Egyptians, in order to seal a deal for his superior. Accordingly, he would have brought the viceroy's seal with him (or perhaps even the viceroy himself made the visit). The second possibility is that the scarab arrived at Dor at a much later stage, perhaps even during the Roman period, when there was demand for such "antiques." Prof. Gilboa adds: "Since the scarab rolled down from the mound and was not found in its archeological context, we will probably never really know when and how it got here and where it has been."

The excavations at Tel Dor will resume this coming July. Anyone who is interested is invited to join. This fascinating scarab is displayed at the Mizgaga Museum in Kibbutz Nahsholim, alongside many other finds from Dor.
A trip of a lifetime for Kent State Jewish Studies students

The 2nd Annual Kent State spring break trip to Poland was a major success! Led by Director of Jewish Studies Chaya Kessler and accompanied by Joanna Huss, a Polish-born professor of modern and classical languages, Twelve Kent State students went on the trip to broaden their understanding and knowledge of the “Perception and Remembrance” of the Holocaust. Only one of the participants was Jewish, the others coming from various backgrounds and ethnicities.

The trip highlighted the major cities of Warsaw and Krakow, as well as the shtetl Chmielnik. Madeline, who joined the group from the Florence Program in Italy, described her impression of the town. “The town broke my heart — there was a feeling of something missing — as if the life had been sucked out of it,” She said, “all the Jews were gone.”

The group spent a week in Poland, exploring the present-day narratives and counter narrative. The students found the country to be beautiful. According to Director Kessler, walking through the rebuilt city of Warsaw tracing the main landmarks and learning about the long history of Jewish presence there impacted all of the participants.

She said one of the highlights was a visit to the new POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews, which was recently named 2016 European Museum of the Year by the European Museum Forum.

The museum tells the story of 1,000 years of Polish Jewish history, and stands in what was once the heart of Jewish Warsaw – an area which the Nazis turned into the Warsaw Ghetto during World War II.

The location’s significance, is underscored by the Museum’s proximity to the Monument to the Ghetto Heroes and the main pre-WWII Jewish quarter.

While in Krakow, the students celebrated Purim with the members of the Jewish Community Center as special invited guests.

The students also met with Paulina, a Righteous Gentile, who shared her family’s heroic efforts during the Second World War saving Jewish lives. The trip also included a tour of Oskar Schindler’s Factory and a day spent at the Auschwitz-Birkenau Concentration Camp.

Natalia Roman, a student who participated on this trip, said, “Yesterday was many things... We visited Auschwitz-Birkenau and looked history in the face. The pictures, the readings, the movies all became real. I am still processing this experience, but all I know right now is that this is staying with me forever”

Emily Cala, a sophomore at Kent State and a proud Jewish woman, whose grandparents had survived Auschwitz, In the Book of Names, she found the names of her ancestors, many of whom she had never known existed.

The trip was a powerful experience for all those who participated. The Jewish Studies Program and the College of Arts and Sciences at Kent State University would like to thank all of the program’s supporters with special thanks to the Thomases Family Endowment of the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation and the Frances Schermer Charitable Trust for their generous contribution in support of this program.
In Memoriam

Ruth Huberman

BOARDMAN – Ruth Huberman, 97, passed away peacefully on April 2, 2016, at Hospice House in Poland, following a short stay.

Ruth, the daughter of Jacob and Sarah Shulman, was born at home on Wayne Avenue, in Youngstown on Jan. 27, 1919.

She graduated from South High School and worked as a bookkeeper for the Robbins Furniture Company. She met the love of her life, Max Huberman, at the USO on Hazel Street, in downtown Youngstown, while Max was briefly stationed in Sharon, Pa., before shipping off to fight in World War II, in China, Burma and India. They corresponded all during the war and upon Max’s return to New York, on Thanksgiving Day, 1945, the two of them got engaged and married four months later, on March 24, 1946. They lived and worked in New York for about two years before returning to Youngstown for better employment.

Ruth returned to her work as a bookkeeper for Robbins Furniture and Max became a salesman for the same company. The owner of that company introduced them to vegetarianism and natural hygiene, a lifestyle they followed for the rest of their lives.

In 1958, Max and Ruth opened a health food store on Market Street, near the corners of Kenmore and Williamson Avenue. After two years, they moved the store to Boardman, where they operated Natural Health Foods and Barbell Center, for 33 years. During those three decades, Ruth, in particular, introduced and inspired thousands of customers and friends in the benefits of a plant-based diet. Max and Ruth were pioneers and tireless advocates for the benefits of fresh air, pure water, regular exercise and a healthy diet.

Ruth and Max were world travelers, having journeyed to Russia, France, Switzerland, Israel, the Bahamas, and most often to Aruba, where they enjoyed a timeshare for over 15 years. They were also both socially and politically active in their support for Civil Rights, their opposition to the Vietnam War (Ruth was a member of the Women’s Strike for Peace Movement) and champions for a clean environment. Upon the sale of their store in 1991, Max retired but Ruth kept working up to the age of 90!

Max and Ruth were married a remarkable 62 wonderful years and were always inseparable. Following Max’s death in May 2008, Ruth moved in with her son, Mark and his wife Wanda, who provided all the loving care she needed. Her devoted granddaughters, Heather Huberman and Liz Fowler, were always there when Mark and Wanda could not be.

Almost until the day she died, Ruth worked out daily at Lifeline Partners, shopped at Sam’s Club and Marc’s and played crazy eights and five hundred rummy before going to bed. She also enjoyed tender loving care from her extraordinary caregivers, Dot Clark and Tammy Ludt, who helped brighten her days.

Ruth enjoyed a close relationship with her late sister, Elsie Katzman, who worked with her at the health food store for over two decades. She also treasured her relationship with her sister, Gladys Saul, who like Ruth, reached the same extraordinary age of 97, passing away only last year. They spoke with each other every day at 8 p.m., visited every Tuesday afternoon, shopped together at Trader Joe’s and Whole Foods almost every other Saturday.

Most of all, Ruth treasured the love of her two sons, Jeff (Raquel) and Mark (Wanda), for whom the sun would always rise and set. As she would often say when asked about them, “Where did I go right?”

Ruth was blessed to have five grandchildren, Jacob (Elena), Heath, David (Oshrit), Lisa and Liz; and four great-grandchildren, Eli, Shira, Gavriel and Shayna Rachel.

She was a founding and devoted member of Ohev Tzedek Temple, where she was a fixture at Saturday morning services. She was also a life member of the National Health Association (NHA), which has advocated the plant-based health program to which she credited her extraordinary longevity and vitality.

Donations in her memory can be made to the NHA or the Temple.

Calling hours took place on April 4, at Ohev Tzedek Temple on Glenwood Ave. Services followed with burial at the Temple Cemetery in Cornersburg.

Bruce H. Silver

Bruce H. Silver, 59, passed away on Wednesday, March 30, 2016, at St. Joseph Health Care Center in Warren, after a six-month courageous battle with stage IV tongue cancer and multiple complications.

He was born on February 22, 1957, in Warren, OH, son of the late, Harry N. and Martha L. (Hatfield) Silver. He attended Beth Israel Temple Center.

Bruce graduated from Warren Western Reserve High School in 1976. After sustaining a back injury, he retired from Copperweld Steel in 1992. Before his retirement, Bruce spent time fishing, boating, snowmobiling, and attending car shows and flea markets.

He had a few close friends and lived a rather a quiet life. He loved to spend time with his family and dogs. He met many challenges in his life with a positive attitude and humor.

Bruce is survived by his sister, Paula (Jerry) Silver Muir and nephew, Dr. Kyle (Sarah) Muir. He was preceded in death by his parents and grandparents.

Funeral services were held on Sunday, April 3, 2016 at the Lane Family Funeral Homes, Roberts Clark Chapel, with Rabbi Joseph Schonberger officiating. Burial followed in Beth Israel Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in memory of Bruce to either Hospice of the Valley, 5190 Market Street, Youngstown, OH 44512, or the University Hospitals Seidman Cancer Center, Institutional Relations and Development, 11100 Euclid Avenue, MCO 5062, Cleveland, OH 44106.

May their memories be only for a blessing. Our sincere condolences to the families.
Dorothy Zoldan

Dorothy Zoldan, 101, formerly of Warren died Wednesday, March 30, 2016, at her residence in Phoenix, AZ.

Dorothy was born on February 26, 1915 in Pittsburgh, PA, a daughter of the late Ben and Bertha (Goodman) Ackerman. She was a member of Beth Israel Temple in Warren until moving to her retirement home in Arizona over 50 years ago.

She will be missed by her children; Walter Zoldan of Hollywood, FL, Judith Landsat of Naples, FL, Debbie Weight of Canada, and Stanley Zoldan of Warren, OH; seven grandchildren and several great-grandchildren.

Dorothy was preceded in death by her husband the late Morris H. Zoldan, whom she married on November 19, 1934. Morris died on October 28, 1995 after 60 years of marriage. She was also preceded in death by a granddaughter Patty Pollock. Graveside service were held at Beth Israel Cemetery on Sunday April 3. Care was entrusted to Lane Family Funeral Homes, Roberts-Clark Chapel.

Freda Friedman

Freda Friedman of Pittsburgh, PA died on April 12, 2016, at the age 94. She was born in East Pittsburgh.

She is survived by her children, Howard (Carol) Friedman, Ellen (Gary) Weiss, and Jerome (Robin) Friedman; and her grandchildren, Jesse Reed, Zachary and Rachel Friedman, Lauren and Jared Friedman, and Sarah Weiss Schild. Freda was the beloved wife of the late Leonard Friedman. She was a loving aunt to her nieces and nephews.

Freda was very active throughout her life and was well known at the Pittsburgh JCC — exercising, visiting and playing maj. She played a big role in the family business, Leonard Friedman Supply.

She loved to dance and sing and was a real balabusta.

The Friedman and Weiss families would like to thank the staff at Levy Gardens and Heritage Manor in Youngstown, OH, for the wonderful care given to Freda. Graveside services were held in Agudath Achim Cemetery, Forest Hills, PA. Professional Services by D’alessandro Funeral Home and Crematory, LTD., Lawreenceville, with Rabbi Chuck Diamond, officiating. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Jewish Community Center, Squirrel Hill or to Heritage Manor, Youngstown.

Victor Sperling

WARREN – Victor Sperling, 80, left a legacy of laughter and family. Victor Sperling died in the early morning hours of April 19, 2016, surrounded by family. He spent his last hours as he spent the rest of his life, interacting with his extended family and friends.

Victor is survived by his wife of 58 years, Suzanne; children David (Pam), Staci Cohen (Yossi), Adam (Ashley), Cammie DeSalvo (Joe); and grandchildren Joshua, Daniel, Rachel, Samuel, Benjamin, Zachary, Cameron, Jordan, Jenna, Joey, Jamie and Jessie.

Prior to his death, Victor looked at his family and said, “You are my legacy. I can die feeling good about what I have accomplished.”

Victor was born to Helen and Donald Sperling on Sept. 14, 1935, in Youngstown, where he lived his entire life.

As a high school student at The Rayen School, he met the love of his life, Suzanne Margel, and they were married three years later. After graduating from Youngstown College with a degree in History, Victor enrolled in Case Western Reserve Law School, from which, he graduated with honors.

Victor valued honesty, hard work and putting others first, through his many years of practicing law. In 1974, he was one of the founding partners of Anzelotti, Sperling, Pazol and Small. Throughout his career, he was focused on obtaining justice for his clients. His more than 50 years of dedicated service was recognized by the Mahoning County Bar Association.

After retirement, he spent many hours at the office continuing to work on behalf of his clients.

Victor also taught the value of service to others through his volunteer work at Heritage Manor, City of Hope, Temple El Emeth, the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation and the Jewish Community Center of Youngstown. He also spent many hours reading to local school children.

Above all, Victor cherished his family. He made quality family time the number one priority in his life. He loved family trips to the Outer Banks, attending his grandchildren’s many sporting events, golfing with his wife, sons and grandsons. and heart to hearts with his family. He would always listen and offer good counsel, but never insisted his way was best. His wife, children and grandchildren felt that they were the most important person in his life because he made each of them feel that way.

Victor taught the value of humor through his sharp wit and love of a good pun. He brought a smile to his many friends’ faces by always knowing how to lighten the mood with laughter. Even to his last days, he was joking with his wonderful hospice workers about his condition.

Victor embodied the ultimate Jewish value, “do unto others as you would have them do unto you.” He treated everyone with respect, generosity and kindness. The Yiddish language has a wonderful word to describe such a person. Victor Sperling was a mensch. The values he taught and embraced will live on in his family.

Services will be at 11 a.m., Friday, at the Rodef Shalom Temple, with calling hours one hour prior to the service at the Temple.

Contributions may be made to the Temple El Emeth or the Congregation Rodef Shalom.

Arrangements were handled by the Shriver-Allison-Courtley-Weller-King Funeral Home.

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In Memoriam
A Bar Mitzvah boy’s mitzvah

Bringing high-tech to Israeli children

JERUSALEM, April 21 – At a special ceremony at Jerusalem’s Gan Sacher today, New York City bar mitzvah boy Noah Helfstein unveiled Israel’s first-ever, portable high-tech innovation lab that will bring do-it-yourself technology to less fortunate Israeli children. Noah, 13, who attends the 7th grade at the Abraham Joshua Heschel School (founded by Peter Geffen, husband of Susie Kessler, and son-in-law of Mollie and Gerald Kessler, of blessed memory), worked with UJA-Federation of New York’s “Give a Mitzvah – Do a Mitzvah” program to support this project because of his own interest in 3D printing and educational technology.

Noah’s $76,000 in bar mitzvah gift money funded the first-ever “Maker Bus” — a specially renovated, full-size bus outfitted with innovative technologies and educational tools that enable “making,” or “self-manufacturing,” and “Do-It-Yourself (DIY)” technology including 3D printing.

The Maker Bus will offer regular weekly courses as well as one-time workshops, and is aimed at vulnerable students ages 8-15, including ultra-religious Jews and Arab students who reside in outlying, less affluent communities in Israel’s north and south.

Israel’s Reut Group and Ofanim, a nonprofit, are both partnering with Noah for the project. The Reut Group has been helping Israel lead in the self-manufacturing movement, which has been heralded as the “Third Industrial Revolution,” in part through broad social inclusion. Ofanim is Israel’s leading organization promoting accessibility of technology and science throughout the Israeli periphery using extensive outreach and mobility.

Noah’s parents, Stacy and Jason Helfstein, his younger sister, Talia, and family friends joined him for the special dedication and ribbon-cutting ceremony at Gan Sacher, Jerusalem, where the Maker Bus was officially presented for the first time.

“The Give a Mitzvah – Do a Mitzvah program of UJA-Federation enables bar and bat mitzvah students like Noah to put their interests and love for Israel and the Jewish people into action,” said Lori Strouch Kolinsky, director of the Manhattan division of UJA-Federation.

“We are all so inspired by Noah and his incredible project, which will bring technology education to young Israelis and strengthen the relationship between New York’s Jewish community and Israel, she said.

“Given my passion for new technology, I chose this project because I would like to give disadvantaged children in Israel the opportunity to interact with new technology. I’m grateful to my family and friends for supporting my project and I’m excited to see the Maker Bus,” said Noah. His parents added, “We are so proud of Noah for choosing this bar mitzvah project and wanting to help disadvantaged children have access to 3D printing and other new technology that Noah enjoys using himself.”

Photo/Ronny Tuvia.