Above left: Princess Lalla Hassna, sister of the Moroccan king, accepts the inaugural Reverend Martin Luther King Jr.-Rabbi Abraham Heschel Award on behalf of her grandfather. See story p. 21.

Left: Children enjoy the JCC’s Bananukah.


Above: The Sherman and Nudell families celebrate the holiday at the Heritage Manor Hanukkah party.
Anti-Defamation League lists top 10 most inspiring moments of 2015

New York, NY, Dec. 23, 2015 — In Charleston, NC, people from all walks of life gathered in solidarity after a racist gunman killed more than a dozen parishioners; in Norway, a group of Muslims formed a protective human chain around a synagogue in the aftermath of an anti-Semitic attack; in Texas, a young boy emptied his piggy bank to help repair a mosque damaged by arsonists; and in France, a Muslim immigrant saved Jewish lives during a terrorist attack on a kosher supermarket. These and other events topped the Anti-Defamation League’s Top 10 list of most inspiring moments in 2015.

“We live in a world that has been convulsed with bigotry, violence and terrorism carried out by those who have singled out Blacks, Jews and minorities,” said Jonathan A. Greenblatt, ADL CEO. “And yet at the same time we have witnessed extraordinary moments of human resilience and expressions of solidarity that have inspired us all.

“After an exhaustive review process and lengthy deliberation involving a number of ADL professionals, we created a short list of those moments that we believe defined our humanity in 2015. These inspirational moments serve as reminders of the potential for human beings to stand up and make a difference through occasional heroism and every day acts of kindness. These are the moments and gestures, both big and small, which have helped to restore our sense of faith in the power of people to overcome their differences and come together as one.”

The following are ADL’s Top 10 most inspirational moments:

**Muslim Kosher supermarket employee saves Jewish lives**

In an unlikely twist to the deadly shooting rampage at a Parisian kosher market in January, it was the heroic actions of a Muslim store employee that saved at least seven Jewish lives. Lassana Bathily, a 24-year-old citizen of Mali, was at work in the underground stockroom of the Hyper Cacher supermarket on January 9 as a string of terror attacks perpetrated by Islamic extremists roiled France. Upon hearing the gunman enter the store, Bathily leapt into action, ushering customers downstairs away from the gunfire. He shut the lights and turned off the stockroom’s freezer. He later escaped from the basement and provided crucial information about the store’s layout that helped authorities end the hostage crisis. His actions earned plaudits from around the world, and soon after, Bathily was granted French citizenship.

**Americans unite in wake of Charleston church massacre**

When a young man infected with white supremacist beliefs opened fire at an African-American church in South Carolina, the tragedy, with echoes of the terrorism that scarred the Civil Rights era, was greeted with a mixture of anger, shock and disbelief. How, in the year 2015, when America has an African-American president could our country witness yet another hate crime motivated by racism and hate? And yet the response to the tragedy told a different story. In the aftermath of the shooting, Americans reacted not with indifference, but with an unprecedented show of unity, love and hope. People from all walks of life – black and white, young and old, famous and not – gathered in Charleston for a show of solidarity with the victims. President Obama delivered a powerful and touching eulogy to the victims, at one point launching into a solo of “Amazing Grace.” “As a nation, out of this terrible tragedy, God has visited grace upon us for he has allowed us to see where we’ve been blind,” Mr. Obama said. “He’s giving us the chance, where we’ve been lost, to find our best selves.”

**#LoveWins after Supreme Court legalizes same sex marriage nationwide**

Celebrations broke out across the country and on social media after the Supreme Court, in a landmark 5-4 decision, ruled same-sex couples have the constitutional right to marry nationwide. The message “#LoveWins” was the number-one trending hashtag in the world on Twitter with more than six million tweets, and spontaneous celebrations erupted globally. The historic ruling was one of the most consequential decisions for the LGBT community and, indeed, one of the most significant civil rights decisions in recent memory.

Planning committee to celebrate life, work, and legacy of Dr. King

The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Planning Committee of Mahoning County, of which the Jewish Community Relations Council is an active partner, will commemorate the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. with a celebration highlighted by a community service of worship on Sunday, Jan. 17 at 3:30 p.m. at Third Baptist Church, 1177 Park Hill Drive, Youngstown, and with a community workshop on Monday, Jan. 19 at 8:30 a.m.-noon at First Presbyterian Church, 201 Wick Avenue, Youngstown. The theme for both programs is “Civil Rights 50 years later: remembering what is civil and doing what is right.”

The ecumenical worship service will include a feature presentation by Pastor Christopher McKee, Jr., Pastor of Tabernacle Baptist Church in Youngstown since 2013. Pastor McKee is the founding executive director of the first local Children’s Defense Fund Summer Freedom School, a cutting edge summer reading program, and a member of the board of the Mahoning Valley Organizing Collaborative. The service will also include musical presentations by a combined youth choir from area churches, and readings from sacred writings by teen representatives of the Jewish, Muslim, and Christian faiths. Alec Kan, who spoke eloquently at the Federation Inaugural Campaign Event in September 2015, will represent the Jewish community at this program.

The Monday workshop will include a number of local voices and community activists as it addresses Dr. King’s challenge to address institutionalized racism. Following a keynote presentation by local criminal defense attorney Walter Madison, a panel discussion will be held featuring prisoner reform advocates Akim Lattimore, education advocate Rebecca Banks, and Youngstown City Councilman Julius Oliver.

At the conclusion of these presentations, attendees will participate in round-table discussions on initiatives for community collaboration and coordination on the issues presented by the panelists.

There is no charge for the Sunday or Monday events. Jaladah Aslam, Rev. Kenneth Simon and Penny Wells are the Co-Conveners of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Planning Committee. For further information on any of the activities, contact Bonnie Deutsch Burdman at (330) 746-3250, x 183.

(Continued on p. 20)
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What’s on the Calendar for January

Gallery reading Jan. 10 3 - 4 p.m.
P.J. Library Tu B’Shevat Jan. 20 6- 7:30 p.m.
(at Ohev Tzedek)
Camp JCC Open House Jan. 24 1 - 3 p.m.
Tu B’Shevat Jan. 24 evening

Candle-Lighting Times

January 1 7:32 p.m.
January 8 8:34 p.m.
January 15 7:38 p.m.
January 22 7:34 p.m.
January 29 7:49 p.m.

About the Jewish Journal Monthly Magazine

Publisher: Andrew L. Lipkin
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Advertising Director: Phyllis Friedman
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The Jewish Journal Monthly Magazine is sent monthly to members of the Jewish communities in Mahoning and Trumbull counties in Ohio, and Mercer County in Pennsylvania, and all Jewish Community Center members at no charge.

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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.

January 15 is the deadline for articles and ads for the February 2016 issue.
The Sandra L. Lippy Endowment Fund of the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation announced that funds are available to eligible teenagers who are participating in March of the Living, a Jewish summer leadership camp or Israel summer experience.

The endowment, which was established in 1994, commemorates Sandra Lippy’s Bat Mitzvah. Jewish continuity and the communal experience is very important to Mrs. Lippy who herself studied at an ulpan in Israel.

Having spent a great deal of time in Israel, she knows the importance of experiencing the country’s vitality and feeling the pulse of the people who live, work, and raise their families there. Mrs. Lippy hopes that in some small way, through the wonderful generosity of her friends, this endowment will help open the eyes and hearts of young people in the Mahoning and Shenango valleys.

Further, it is her wish that this generation of young people will step up to the plate as it becomes their privilege to provide leadership necessary to maintain a vital Jewish community.

Teenagers who are eligible may complete an application to the Scholarship Committee explaining why they would like to participate in this Jewish experience. The committee will review the applications and may interview applicants to determine who will receive the subsidies.

Information and applications are available at the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation, 505 Gypsy Lane, Youngstown, Ohio, 44504 or contact Emily Collin, youth director, at youth@jccyoungstown.org or Debbi Grinstein, endowment director at dgrinstein@jewishyoungstown.org or phone at 330-746-3250, Ext. 175.

Friends, family, and longtime colleagues honored the longtime executive vice-president of the Federation at his retirement by funding the “Sam Kooperman Endowment.”

With input from Sam, the Federation Board of Directors established the fund which has two purposes:

- To provide scholarships for Jewish overnight camping experience for Jewish youth; and to provide scholarships for Jewish young adults to study in Israel.

Competitive grant awards are available to applicants who reside in the Mahoning and Shenango Valley region. Consideration can be made for an applicant whose family resides in the region, but is not guaranteed.

Applications are available at the Federation offices. The submission deadline is March 31, 2016.

The Youngstown Area Jewish Federation
Cordially invites you to

HOMETOWN REUNION
A gathering of the Mahoning and Shenango Valleys

For our friends in
Phoenix, Arizona

Wednesday, January 27, 2016
4:30pm

To RSVP and for more information contact
Debbi Grinstein
330-746-3250 ext. 175 or DGrinstein@JewishYoungstown.org

Hors D’oeuvres | No Solicitation

YOUNGSTOWN AREA JEWISH FEDERATION
Haifa University scientists identify activity of brain proteins associated with memory impairment in Alzheimer’s

A new study conducted at the University of Haifa and published recently in the *Journal of Neuroscience* has identified activity of brain proteins associated with memory impairments in Alzheimer’s disease, and has also found that “repairing” this activity leads to an improvement in memory.

“In the study we found that the nerve cells in the mouse models of Alzheimer face a type of metabolic stress. When a cell faces such metabolic stress, it is logical that it will reduce its activity level in order to survive.

“The problem is that this stress is chronic and leads to impairment of cognitive functioning,” explains research student Yifat Segev, who undertook the study together with Dr. Iliana Barrera and additional colleagues from Dr. Kobi Rosenblum’s laboratory and researchers from the University of Bergen, Faculty of Medicine in Bergen, Norway.

The researchers hope that the new start-up they have founded on the basis of the findings will enable the development of a drug that will delay the onset of cognitive symptoms.

In recent years, researchers into Alzheimer’s have focused mainly on an attempt to fight the disease after it has erupted, as well as on understanding its pathology. Nevertheless, it is well-known that the disease nests in the brain for many years before the patient or those around them complain of symptoms.

A previous study by Segev at the laboratory for research of molecular and cellular mechanisms, directed by Prof. Kobi Rosenblum in the Sagol Department of Neurobiology at the University of Haifa, found a connection between a genetic condition known to be a risk factor for sporadic Alzheimer’s and premature aging as manifested in ongoing metabolic stress.

In the previous study, Segev found a connection between abnormal activity of the eIF2 protein, which is known to regulate the formation of new proteins needed for the creation of long-term memories, and mice that carried the human gene APOE4, which is known as a key risk factor for sporadic Alzheimer’s, the form that affects over 90 percent of Alzheimer’s patients in Israel and around the world. In the present study, Segev and Bererra reach an even deeper understanding of the abnormality of the process and, in particular, finds that “repairing” the process improves the ability to create new memories.

As in the first study, a group of young mice carrying the human gene APOE4 showed cognitive impairment on the behavioral level – in other words, they showed signs of damage on the level of spatial memory. A molecular examination showed that the protein eIF2 had undergone phosphorylation (a phosphate group had been added to it, changing its action), leading to several processes, including elevated expression of the RNA on another protein, ATF4. This elevation delayed the expression of additional genes associated with the consolidation of memory – i.e. the creation of long-term stable memory.

According to the researcher, who is in the closing stages of her doctorate thesis, the measurements show that in several parameters mice expressing the risk factor for Alzheimer’s “age” metabolically at a relatively young age. “The abnormal activity in the regulation of the activity of the ATF4 probably causes the cell to ‘feel’ that is under stress, that is – overactive.

A cell that is in stress reduces its activity in order to survive with the goal of restoring it to a normal condition after the stress passes. The problem is that in Alzheimer’s the stress is probably chronic, and accordingly there is no return to normal activity,” Segev explains.

In order to reinforce the connection they found, the researchers performed an additional intervention in which they prevented the eIF2 from causing an increase in the RNA of the ATF4. When they examined these mice, they found an improvement in their cognitive capabilities.

“In previous studies we showed that it is possible to improve long-term memory by regulating the course of the PKR protein and the eIF2 in models in young and healthy animals. Then we found a connection between eIF2 and cognitive impairment in the context of Alzheimer’s. Now, we have not only deepened our understanding of these processes, but we have also managed to show that it is possible to cause a cognitive improvement in an Alzheimer’s model.

Following these studies and the patents we obtained, we are gaining a better understanding of the connection between the molecular course of PKR and eIF2 and Alzheimer’s. I hope that the new start-up we established on the basis of these findings will enable a drug to be found that can delay the onset of cognitive symptoms in dementia patients and in people with various cognitive impairments,” Prof. Rosenblum concluded.

Hillel International honors Kent’s Rabbi Lee Moore with 2015 Richard M. Joel Exemplar of Excellence Award

ORLANDO – On Dec 16, Hillel International President and CEO Eric Fingerhut presented Rabbi Lee Moore, Senior Jewish Educator at Hillel at Kent State, with a 2015 Richard M. Joel Exemplar of Excellence Award.

For nearly two decades, Hillel International has recognized those individuals who embody their mission with enthusiasm and dedication on college campuses around the world, knowing that they are an example and inspiration to all of Hillel’s student and staff. Rabbi Moore is honored in particular for her commitment to pluralism and inclusion - embodied in her engagement with students of all kinds, ability to respect a wide range of perspectives and opinions and willingness to assist with every aspect of her Hillel.

“Rabbi Lee Moore, and every Richard M. Joel Exemplar of Excellence Award winner, demonstrates a passion for enriching the lives of our students and ensuring that every facet of Hillel reflects a culture of excellence,” said Eric Fingerhut, President and CEO of Hillel International. “Her work is critical not only to her community at Hillel at Kent State, but is helping to grow the next generation of Jewish leaders across the country.”

“We are very proud of Rabbi Lee and congratulate her on this well deserved honor,” said Harvey Sass, interim executive director of Hillel at Kent State. “This award recognizes the excellent work that Rabbi Lee does for Hillel and is a reflection of her commitment to engaging students in a meaningful way.”

The 2015 Richard M. Joel Exemplar of Excellence Awards were presented at the Hillel International Global Assembly, held in Orlando, Florida from Dec. 14 -17. This conference brought together more than 700 Hillel staff and leaders from around the world to share best practices, teach new skills and build a community among Hillel staff from countless different colleges and universities. The Hillel International Global Assembly aims to highlight and spread the powerful work, like that of the Exemplar of Excellence winners, in order to strengthen and innovate Hillel’s work on every campus.

Hillel at Kent State is the foundation for Jewish life serving 1200 Jewish students at Kent State University and 300 Jewish students at University of Akron. Its mission is to inspire Jewish undergraduate and graduate students to make enduring commitments to Jewish life.
Youngsters enjoying El Emeth’s Hanukkah party.

Synagogues

Temple El Emeth

Jewish Christian Dialogue

Wednesday, Jan. 6

Refreshments are served at 12:30 p.m. with the session beginning at 1 p.m. This year’s theme is “Religious Insights into Mysticism,” and the presenter this month will be Dr. Sudhakar Rao who will discuss the Hindu perspective on Mysticism. All are welcome to attend.

Minyan, a Meal and a Movie

Saturday, Jan. 9

Minyan begins at 5:15 p.m. with a light supper starting at 6 p.m. Afterward, the movie Keeping up with the Steins complete with popcorn and snacks, will be shown. Paid reservation forms are due into the office by Jan. 7.

Sisterhood’s open board meeting

Tuesday, Jan. 12

The meeting will take place in the Chapel at 10:45 a.m. All Sisterhood members are welcome to attend. There will not be a luncheon or program this month.

Women’s Rosh Chodesh

Wednesday, Jan. 13 at the Synagogue.

Carol Gottesman will lead the study session on the month of Shevat. The session runs from 11:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. and includes brunch. R.S.V.P. to the Temple by Jan. 11.

Brunch with the Rabbi

Sunday, Jan. 17.

Minyan at 10 a.m.

Light brunch beginning at 10:30 a.m.

Rabbi will discuss Gematria. In Hebrew, each letter possesses a numerical value. Gematria is the calculation of the numerical equivalence of letters, words, or phrases, and, on that basis, gaining insight into interrelation of different concepts and exploring the inter-relationship between words and ideas. R.S.V.P. to the Temple office by Jan. 14.

Ti B’Shevat Seder and Dinner

Saturday, Jan. 23.

Minyan begins at 5:30 p.m. followed by the Seder and dinner at 6:15.

The Israeli Shilichim, Gon and Shai Erez, will lead some Tu B’Shevat activities with the children. Reservation forms are in the Temple bulletin and are due in with payment by Jan. 20.

Shmoozing with Smulik

is off this month and will return Feb. 29.

Daily minyan takes place every afternoon Sunday through Friday at 5:45 p.m., with Friday mornings at 7:00 am. Shabbat mornings services are at 9:30 a.m. and Shabbat afternoons in January are as follows: January 2nd and 9th at 5:15 pm; Jan. 16 and 23 at 5:30 pm and Jan. 30 at 5:45 p.m.

A new year for Sisterhood

Happy New Year from our house to your house with all the best for this new year of 2016. Where have all the years gone? That old adage of living each day as it comes is the way to go, because yesterday is done and over, and who knows what tomorrow will bring. I try to live up to that as much as possible. Time is too fleeting and difficult to keep from slipping away.

Why then do I keep digging into the past? I think one of the reasons is to know that it existed and at the same time, memories keep us enjoying the past. Make sense? I’m not sure, but in keeping with these thoughts, I had to drive out to Fowler Center last week to pick up a hand crafted present for Diane for Hanukkah.

On the way out and back, I passed the Youngstown Airport. I don’t remember the last time I passed the airport, and it brought back a lot of memories of time spent there. I remember when you could drive up to the airport and park in the lot and walk into the terminal without all the security that you need today. The kids thought that the drive to the airport was a long trip. Those were the days when we used the Youngstown terminal almost exclusively when we wanted to travel by air.

If I remember correctly, you could fly almost anywhere out of this airport. You only had to purchase your ticket, and when the plane arrived you walked out onto the tarmac and board. Someone could walk you out to the steps of the plane and watch you board. We used to stand outside on the tarmac and watch the planes take off. It did become a little more of a challenge when the jets came because they could blow you off your feet. We also would drive out with the kids and go the top of the airport just for fun to watch the planes come and go.

I remember when they remodeled and enlarged the terminal. I also remember sitting for hours waiting for planes to arrive or take off, either as a passenger or picking up or delivering the travelers. I think for a while they also had a snack bar. Now, sadly, they have so many fences, security and rules, I don’t believe you can get into the terminal unless you are a passenger. I know there is one airline using the airport for public transportation, but I don’t believe it is very often. The Air Force base utilizes the airport to some extent. Those were the days, my friends, those were the simpler days.

The December meeting and lunch was a lot of fun. A delicious meal was prepared by David with Kravitz and served so nicely by Patty and Cheryl. Thank you for the good food and company.

We had the raffle drawing at the meeting and the winners were — lovely blanket: Rob Berk; “Cruising Down Belmont,” Toby Brenner; hand knitted hat and scarf, Alice Franklin; lovely necklace designed and created by Sandy Miller, Ellen Weiss; my bread, Howard Sniderman; and $100 GE gift certificate, Phyllis Friedman.

We played bingo, with winners including Sandi Altman, Toby Brenner, Holly Small and yours truly. It was a lot of fun.

By the way, we tried an experiment with Leagrams by raising them to $2 each. Sadly, that experiment failed somewhere along the way, and we will be going back to the old way of $1 each in April. Sometimes the old is still the best.

As long as we are talking money, I just wanted you to know Women’s League has been gradually increasing cost per member for the last few years. Due to their increases, we will, regrettably, have to increase our dues from $25 to $30 each year. This change will not become effective until June 2016.

Thanks to our Honorable Menschen for the month of December: Debbi Grinstein, Phyllis Friedman, and Ronna Marlin for donating money to help underwrite Sisterhood’s wonderful lunches. We really appreciate all that they do for our Sisterhood.

Our next meeting will be Feb. 9. It is an open board meeting, which means that you don’t have to be on the board to attend. Any Sisterhood member is invited. Wishing you all a healthy Happy New Year.
Ohev Tzedek
Wednesday, Jan. 13, 7 p.m.
OT Board Meeting
Wednesday, Jan. 20, 6-7:30 p.m.
The PJ Library Tu B’Shevat celebration at Ohev Tzedek

Services
Minyan
Every Thursday 7:30 a.m.
Shabbat
Every Saturday 9:45 a.m.

“Torah Studies for Christians”
Rabbi Saul Oresky and the Rev. George Balasko will present this Bible education series from 1 - 2 p.m., Jan. 20, at Villa Maria Education and Spirituality Center.

Adult Education Classes
Rabbi Oresky is interested in teaching the following adult education classes. Each is designed to be approximately 10 sessions. Some classes will require a text to be purchased in addition to the registration fee.

Rodef Sholom
Rodef Sholom Israel Trip
Planned For July 10-July 21, 2016
Informational Meeting
Tuesday, Jan. 12, 7 p.m.
At the home of Rabbi & Darlene Muller, 18 Wildfern Drive Youngstown, OH
R.S.V.P. to the Temple office by Friday, Jan. 8

Shabbat Service
Commemorating the Legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, JR.
With special guest Dario Hunter
Member Elect—Youngstown Board of Education
Friday, Jan. 15, 6 p.m.
Tamarkin Chapel
Dario Hunter is an American-born Israeli lawyer and academic, and is the first Muslim-born individual to be ordained a rabbi. He is openly gay and was raised by his Iranian Muslim father and African-American Catholic mother in New Jersey. He converted to Judaism, first under the auspices of the Reform Movement and then through an Orthodox process. Dario lived in Haifa, Israel for a time, where he practiced environmental law.

Rodef Sholom Sisterhood
Hanukkah has come and gone. We had a great time helping our Brotherhood prepare a successful, traditional Hanukkah potluck dinner. Carol and Bruce Sherman’s latkes are always delicious.

I want to thank all of our wonderful Sisters who answered the call and came to our aid. It has been a great 2015. We have made this happen and it has made us. We will take up the task of responsibility for the coming year, which we will face with strength and creativity.

Congregation Rodef Sholom Sisterhood would like to wish all of our community a happy and healthy new year 2016 full of peace, love and happiness. We will be stronger together for a future filled with Tikkun Olam.

With love and Sisterhood,
Your Sisterhood President Sally Blau
Happy New Year from the Social Action Committee
Dario Hunter will kick off our 2016 SAC activities. We will have a SAC planning meeting and potluck dinner

Enjoying the joint Ohev Tzedek - El Emeth Hanukkah party are (back row, from left) Allan Sharapan, Ashley DeAngelis, and Hannah Sharapan; and (bottom row, from left) Megan, Nicholas, and Alyssa DeAngelis.
Athena Fund donates laptops and iPads to Israeli teachers

Tel Aviv, Israel, January 4, 2016 — Israel’s Athena Fund today announced that the country’s oldest agricultural school, Mikveh Israel, has joined the Fund’s Laptop Computer for Every Teacher in Israel program.

Located near Tel Aviv, Mikveh Israel was founded in 1870, in the days of the Turkish Ottoman Empire, by the Alliance Israélite Universelle, a French Jewish organization.

Teachers at Mikveh Israel’s general school received laptops, including 120 hours of professional training. The general school comprises a middle school (7th-8th grades) and a high school (9th-12th grades). Some of the general school’s students, including new immigrants, reside in campus dormitories.

In addition to standard subjects – such as physics, chemistry, literature and agriculture – the high school students also have an opportunity to focus on special subjects, including biotechnology, art history and computer science. The middle school also provides specialized subjects, such as veterinary studies, art and Photoshop, and computers.

“Mikveh Israel was a pioneer in implementing modern agricultural technologies and methods 145 years ago, and today we are doing our bit to empower teachers with the latest ICT technologies,” said Uri Ben-Ari, president and founder of the Athena Fund. “I congratulate Ronen Zafrir, Mikveh Israel’s director, on joining the program and understanding the importance of providing laptops to teachers.”

Ben-Ari said that the donation of computers to Mikveh Israel was made possible due to contributions by the United Jewish Appeal, Bank Massad, which specializes in providing banking services to teachers, the Israel Teachers’ Union’s Professional Advancement Fund, and other partners of the Athena Fund.

Laptop Computer for Every Teacher in Israel (launched in 2006) is one of the Fund’s four programs. The other three are iPad for Every Special Education Teacher in Israel (2015), Laptop for Every Kindergarten teacher in Israel (2012) and Tablet for Every Teacher of Science and Technology in Israel (2014).

The Athena Fund is a non-profit organization established in 2006 in order to promote the empowerment of teachers in Israel by providing them with tools for self-fulfillment and professional advancement. The Fund was founded by several prominent business leaders under the direction of President Uri Ben-Ari (CEO of UBA Ventures and former Executive VP of Ness Technologies).

The Fund’s flagship initiative is the innovative Laptop Computer for Every Teacher in Israel program. This program has so far distributed laptops to over 12,000 teachers in 503 schools and kindergartens in 1,104 towns, cities and small communities in regional councils, together with professional training courses. The program’s goal is to provide a laptop computer and 120 hours of professional training to every teacher in Israel by 2018.

Last month, Israel’s Athena Fund announced the donation of iPads to special education teachers in communities in southern Israel that were attacked by rockets in July-August 2014, during the Israel-Gaza conflict (Operation Protective Edge). The communities include the cities of Beér Sheva – the capital of the Negev, and Netivot – located between Beér Sheva and the Gaza Strip, and the Bnei Shimon Regional Council in the northern Negev, encompassing 12 kibbutzim and villages.

The Fund also donated iPads to special education teachers in the Hevel Eilot Regional Council, near the city of Eilot, comprising 12 desert kibbutzim and communal villages.

The special education teachers who received iPads in Beér Sheva work at Tsad Kadima (A Step Forward), the Association for Conductive Education in Israel. The association is recognized worldwide for its holistic approach to rehabilitation and education of children, adolescents, and young adults with cerebral palsy or motor dysfunctions, based on the method of Hungarian Professor András Pető.

iPod for Every Special Education Teacher in Israel is a new program, joining Athena’s existing programs: Laptop Computer for Every Teacher in Israel, Laptop for Every Kindergarten teacher in Israel, and Tablet for Every Teacher of Science and Technology in Israel.

Through the new program, the Athena Fund, together with its partners, will provide 10,000 special education teachers with an iPad, along with 120 hours of training. The program is designed to empower special education teachers by enabling them to communicate better with their students, thereby strengthening their students’ social skills, which ultimately helps students integrate into society. With the iPad and training, teachers also gain access to a wider range of teaching materials, and can thus expose their students to the world of advanced technology and reduce educational gaps.

“I would like to thank our donors, whose generosity allowed us to launch the new program and to accelerate our existing programs,” said Uri Ben Ari, president and founder of the Athena Fund. “Education is the key to Israel’s future, and the use of advanced technology in teaching will enable the next generation to be in the first rank of scientists, experts, executives and thought leaders who will lead Israel to new horizons in all subjects – from scientific and technological fields to the humanistic and spiritual spheres,” he said.

Ben-Ari said that among the major donors to the Athena Fund are Bank Massad, which specializes in providing banking services to teachers, the Israel Teachers’ Union’s Professional Advancement Fund, the Ted Arison Family Foundation, WIZO and more. “We consider the donation of computers to teachers as being critical to Israel’s future, and we would be happy to see the involvement of world Jewry in this project,” said Ben-Ari.

Additional support for the donation of iPads to Netivot’s special education teachers comes from the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia and Netivot – Sedot Negev partnership (part of the Partnership2Gether program).

The Fund’s flagship initiative is the innovative Laptop Computer for Every Teacher in Israel program.

This program has so far distributed laptops to over 11,000 teachers in 939 schools and kindergartens in 430 towns, cities and small communities in regional councils, together with professional training courses. The program’s goal is to provide a laptop computer and 120 hours of professional training to every teacher in Israel by 2018.
Excavations at the Kursi site on the shores of the Sea of Galilee have uncovered an inscription in Hebrew letters engraved on a large marble slab, dating back ca. 1,600 years. No similar artifact has even been found before in Israel, and the finding confirms for the first time that the ancient settlement at the site was Jewish or Judeo-Christian. The excavation is led by Dr. Haim Cohen and Prof. Michal Artzy of the Hatter Laboratory in the Recanati Institute for Maritime Studies at the University of Haifa, in cooperation with the Antiquities Authority and the Nature and Parks Authority’s Kursi Beach site.

The existence of an ancient settlement at the site, on the northeast shore of the Sea of Galilee, has been known since the 1960s, when Mendel Nun of Kibbutz Ein Gev, together with Prof. Avner Raban of the University of Haifa, found remnants of a large breakwater under the sea during their survey. They also noticed some stones, possibly belonging to a public building. Not far away, remnants were later found of a city whose main features resembled those of a Christian site from the Byzantine period (5th century CE). In 1980 the entire site became a national park and was named Kursi, after a Syrian village that had previously existed nearby. The common assumption was that the site was synonymous with Kursi mentioned in the Jewish Talmud as a site if the synagogue possibly named after Yonadav son of Raghav and also as the “Land of the Gederenes” mentioned in the New Testament as a site visited by Jesus during his travels around the Sea of Galilee, and as the place where he performed a miracle by casting out demons and driving them into a herd of pigs (the Miracle of the Swine).

A sharp fall in the level of the Sea of Galilee enabled researchers from the Hatter Laboratory in the Recanati Institute for Maritime Studies at the University of Haifa to return to the excavations around the breakwater, thanks to the support of the Avery-Tsui Foundation from the US, and in cooperation with the Antiquities Authority, Kursi Beach site, and the Nature and Parks Authority. The researchers soon realized that the ancient harbor was much larger than had previous been thought. While it may have formed part of the Byzantine site, it is also possible that it constituted an adjacent but separate settlement. It is possible that the ancient city of Sussita, which is also being excavated and investigated by researchers from the University of Haifa and is situated not far away, also used the services of the harbor.

However, nothing could have prepared the researchers for an exceptional finding: A marble slab made from a single piece with dimensions of ca. 140 cm by 70 cm bearing an engraving written in the Aramaic language in Hebrew letters. The researchers have already managed to decipher two words from the inscription: “amen” and the word “marmaria.” This latter word is probably the word for “marble,” although some scholars suggest that it could refer to...
Thousands flock to performance of lost Yiddish stage classic

The Golden Bride (“Di Goldene Kale”) was a hit during the heyday of the Second Avenue Yiddish Theatre scene more than 70 years ago, catering to the city’s large immigrant population. The play, which premiered in 1923 and drew full houses for 25 years, is a timeless rags-to-riches American-Jewish fairytale that takes the audience on a journey from the Russian shtetl to a New York City mansion.

A recently discovered manuscript led to the revival and restaging by the National Yiddish Theatre Folksbiene to mark its debut year at the Lower Manhattan museum, with a score by celebrated composer Joseph Rumshinsky. Performances beginning this week have already packed the intimate MJH theater with people of all ages, from Brooklyn hipsters to elderly grandparents.

The National Yiddish Theatre Folksbiene Since 1915, the award-winning National Yiddish Theatre Folksbiene [NYTF] has presented a window into the world of Jewish culture by engaging, educating, and igniting the imaginations of generations of theatergoers. It is the longest consecutively-producing Yiddish theatre company in the world, NYC’s longest consecutively-producing performing arts company, and America’s sole surviving professional Yiddish theatre. NYTF presents plays, musicals, concerts, literary events and workshops in English, Yiddish, Ladino, Hebrew and Russian, with English and Russian supertitles accompanying most performances. Its mission is to celebrate the Jewish experience through the performing arts and to transmit a rich cultural legacy in exciting new ways. www.nytf.org

The mission of the Museum of Jewish Heritage is to educate people of all ages and backgrounds about the broad tapestry of Jewish life in the 20th and 21st centuries—before, during, and after the Holocaust.

Multiple perspectives on modern Jewish history, life, and culture are pre-

Readings scheduled for Gallery

The Jewish Community Center of Greater Youngstown will be hosting Lit Youngstown, a community of writers from the greater Youngstown area, for a literary reading corresponding with five shows in the Thomases Family Gallery. Three writers from the region will be invited to engage with pieces on exhibit or read from previous work.

Lit Youngstown poets Will Greenway, Mindi Kirchner-Greenway & Susan Wojnar read their work in the JCC Thomases Family Gallery on Sunday Jan. 10, from 3-4 p.m.

John Guy Petruzzi’s watercolor paintings remain on display until Jan. 22.

Ofer Ben-Amots wins Italy’s Smareglia Composition Prize

Israeli-born composer Ofer Ben-Amots has been awarded first prize in the Antonio Smareglia International Competition for “Yo kon amor,” one of the songs in his Kantigas Ulvidadas (Forgotten Songs) song cycle.

Composed in 2006, Kantigas Ulvidadas is Ben-Amots’s second song cycle based in the Ladino language. It features the contemporary Ladino poetry of Miriam Raymon and Shlomo Avayou set to original music by Ben-Amots.

The recording, which features soprano Jeanne-Michele Charbonnet and pianist Deborah Ayers, is part of the Milken Archive’s Volume 2, A Garden Eastward—Sephardi and Near Eastern Inspiration, and is available on iTunes, Amazon, and Spotify.

“The Milken Archive has long held Ofer Ben-Amots in high regard as a composer and as a valued member of our editorial board,” said Milken Archive of Jewish Music Founder, Lowell Milken. “This prize speaks to his standing as one of the important composers of our time, and confirms the Milken Archive’s guiding belief in the universality of Judaically-rooted music.”

Born in Haifa, Israel in 1955, Ofer Ben-Amots gave his first piano concert when he was nine years old. After winning an illustrious piano competition when he was 16, he went on to study at Tel Aviv University, the Conservatoire de Musique in Switzerland, the Nordrhein-Westfalen Hochschule für Musik in Germany, and at the Univer-

(Continued on p. 11)
Israel’s brightest startups meet with multinational corporations

Axis Innovation Corporate Edition took place at the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange on Dec. 16, bringing together world’s leading companies interested in investing in Israel to meet country’s top startups.

More than 25 of the world’s largest multinational corporations met with Israel’s brightest startups. Senior representatives from companies including AVG, Ford, Yahoo, GE, Tyco, GM, ProSieben, and Mail.ru participated in the only event in Israel connecting global entities with leading Israeli startups, assisting them to break in to the local ecosystem in the optimal platform for networking and deal making.

“This is the second year we have put on our Corporate Edition event here in Israel for multinational companies and the feedback from both multinational companies and start ups continues to be great, and this year was no exception,” said Ed Frank, CEO of Axis Innovation.

“Our event acts as a platform for business to be facilitated and the exchange of ideas between some of the brightest minds in the corporate and startup space Israel has to offer.” The 2015 Corporate Edition was the biggest event of its kind to ever be hosted and the only event in Israel to target global corporate venture arms. The event’s participating startups were from a variety of tech sectors including big data, cloud, cyber security, mobile, fintech and e-commerce.

Each of these sectorss was designated as its own session, which included pitches from each corporate panelist, followed by startup pitches and feedback from the esteemed panel.

In addition, time was dedicated to roundtable discussions, keynote speakers and targeted networking sessions to provide optimal networking abilities. Linat Wagner, head of innovation and Startup Relations at Yahoo, said “The importance for us specifically at Yahoo in Axis Corporate Edition is the exposure we got to startups and the corporate network we create during the events.”

He said “Yahoo has great interest in Israeli innovation, technologies and talent. We recently opened our first accelerator globally in Tel Aviv called SigmaLabs, thus taking Yahoo’s investment and support for the Israeli innovation ecosystem to the next level.”

Ancient Jewish settlement discovered (continued from p. 9)

Maria’s great Rabbi, as ‘mar’ means Rabbi. According to the researchers, an inscription in Aramaic in Hebrew letters dating to the year ca. 500 CE suggests that the settlement at the site was Jewish, or at least mixed. Accordingly, they added, the most reasonable assumption is that 500 years earlier the settlement would have been entirely Jewish. “The presence of a Jewish site on the eastern shores of the Sea of Galilee is a very rare phenomenon. Until now we have not had any proof that Jewish settlements existed during this period along the eastern shores of the Sea of Galilee,” Dr. Cohen explained.

The combination of all the findings led the researchers to go back 2000 years, to Jesus’s visits to the area as described in the New Testament, and particularly to the “Land of the Gederenes,” a name that refers to Kursi. According to the New Testament, Jesus came to Kursi after crossing the Sea of Galilee from one anchorage to another. Since this is the only harbor in the area, the scholars believe that this story, together with the inscription indicating the Jewish origins of the settlement, together provide archeological evidence that this site may indeed be the Kursi of the New Testament.

The inscription testifies to the Jewish roots of the settlement and is also unique in other respects. Indeed, it is the first artifact of its kind found in Israel. Most of the dedication plates from this period were made as mosaics embedded in the floor of the compound; this is the first of its kind engraved on marble commissioned specially from Greece. The inscription was found at the entrance to an inner room inside a building that probably served as a synagogue. “The dedication comprises eight lines, so that it is very detailed or expansive. In most cases we do not find so many words in Hebrew letters engraved on stone, so the person to whom the inscription was dedicated must have had a tremendous influence on the local people. There is no parallel for such a detailed and expensive dedication in archeological findings to date in Israel,” Prof. Artzy notes.

Volunteers from Israel and from abroad are participating in the excavations at Kursi beach site, particularly from China and Taiwan and students from the International Program at the University of Haifa. Ground penetrating radar and other tests are being implemented in cooperation with Dr. Yossi Salomon of the Technion and researchers from Spain and France.

In addition, volunteers from the religious girls’ high school at Nov participated in the excavation as part of the Antiquity Authority’s “Heritage” program. Additional archeological findings at the site include earthenware vessels and an earthenware oil lamp featuring fish, as well as another ceramic oil lamp featuring a ship.

Award (cont’d from p. 10)

Ben-Amots has received commissions and grants from the MacArthur Foundation, Fulbright Foundation, Maurice Amado Foundation, Schleswig-Holstein Music Festival, Fuji International Music Festival in Japan, Delta Ensemble from Amsterdam, Assisi Musiche Festival, and many others.
ADULT PROGRAMMING

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

Darlene’s Destinations

**IF/THEN**

*IF/THEN* is a contemporary Broadway musical about living in New York today and all the possibilities of tomorrow. With unforgettable songs and a deeply moving story, this original new musical simultaneously follows one woman’s two possible life paths, painting a deeply moving portrait of the lives we lead, as well as the lives we might have led. Price includes orchestra seat, transportation, and tip for the bus driver.

**Date:** Sunday, Feb. 14  
**Location:** Cleveland, OH  
**Leave JCC:** 11:00 a.m.  
**Return:** 7:30 p.m.  
**Price:** $75/Member $85/Non Member

**Movie and Lunch Brunch**

**Loving Leah**  
A love story that defines tradition. Leah Lever is married to an Orthodox rabbi, Benjamin Lever, whose brother Jake is a successful cardiologist and non-practicing Jew. When Leah’s husband dies suddenly, Jake is stunned that under an ancient Jewish Law, he is expected to marry the childless Leah to carry on Benjamin’s name. A love story that defines tradition. Price includes light lunch.

**Date:** Thursday, Jan. 14  
**Time:** Noon-2:00 p.m.  
**Location:** Multi-Purpose Room  
**Price:** $5/Member $7/Non-Member  
**$10 after Jan. 12**

**The Jolson Story**  
One of the greatest musicals ever made. The Jolson Story is an electrifying cavalcade of lavish production numbers with an all-star cast. This film traces the meteoric performing career of Asa Yoelson, a talented cantor’s son determined to make it big in the “biz”. After changing his name to Al Jolson, Asa captivates audiences everywhere as a spellbinding minstreel and jazz performer. Price includes light lunch.

**Date:** Thursday, Feb. 11  
**Time:** Noon-2:00 p.m.  
**Location:** Multi-purpose Room  
**Price:** $5/Member $7/Non-Member  
**$10 after February**

**The Bridges off Madison County**  
One of the most romantic stories ever written first captured the nation’s attention as a best-selling novel by Robert James Waller and is now an irresistible, two time Tony Award-winning Broadway musical. “The Bridges Of Madison County” is the unforgettable story of two people caught between decision and desire, as a chance encounter becomes a second chance at so much more. Price includes orchestra seat, transportation and tip for the bus driver. Dinner on your own.

**Date:** Sunday, March 13, 2016  
**Location:** Pittsburgh, PA  
**Leave JCC:** 11:00 a.m.  
**Return:** 7:30 p.m.  
**Price:** $75/Member $90/Non Member

**Dancing in the Streets**  
Join the original celebration of Motown’s Greatest Hits with the spectacular, critically acclaimed “Dancing in the Streets.” Experience the energy and electricity of the motor city in a stunning production packed with hit after hit. Expect your favorite songs made famous by The Four Tops, The Temptations, Stevie Wonder and many more. Price includes orchestra seat, transportation and tip for the bus driver. Dinner on your own.

**Date:** Sunday, April 17  
**Location:** Pittsburgh, PA  
**Leave JCC:** 1:00 p.m.  
**Return:** 8:00 p.m.  
**Price:** $60/Member $70/Non Member

YOUTH PROGRAMMING

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

**PJ Library**  
PJ Library is a Jewish family engagement program implemented on a local level throughout North America. Through the program, we mail free, high-quality Jewish children’s literature and music to families across the greater Youngstown area on a monthly basis. All families raising Jewish children from age six months through eight years are welcome to enroll. The books are also available at the JCC Library for checkout. All PJ Library programming and events are open to members of the greater Youngstown community, and are not limited to the Jewish community.

**Tu B’Shevat Celebration**  
**Date:** Wednesday, Jan. 20  
**Time:** 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.  
**Location:** Ohev Tzedek  
5245 Glenwood Ave, Youngstown, OH

**Camp JCC Open House and Pool Party!**  
Want to learn more about what we’re offering for summer 2016? Come with your campers (all ages welcome) to our Open House Pool Party on Sunday, January 24, 2016 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.

**Dates:** Sundays, Jan. 24, Feb. 7, March 13, 2016  
**Time:** 10:45 – 11:45 a.m.  
**Location:** Levy Gardens  
584 Granada Ave, Youngstown, OH 44505

**Jr. JTeens Sip and Paint**  
Sip on some warm hot cocoa while we learn to paint from an instructor who will help us create a personal piece of art. All materials will be provided.

**Date:** Monday, January 18, 2016 (MLK Day)  
**Time:** 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.  
**Location:** JCC  
**Price:** $20/Member, $25/Non-Member  
**Maximum Participants:** 20

For more information, contact: Darlene Muller 330-746-3250 Ext. 106 Or Dmuller@jccyoungstown.org
**Shabbat and Paint**
We will learn to paint from an instructor who will help us create a personal piece of art with a Shabbat theme. All materials will be provided.
**Date:** Friday, Feb. 12 (NEOEA Day)
**Time:** 1:30–3:30 p.m.
**Location:** JCC
**$20/Member $25/Non Member Maximum Participants: 20**

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**LIZ RUBINO STUDIOS AT THE JCC**

For more information on the Studio offerings contact: Liz Rubino 330-746-3250 ext. 187 or lrubino@jccyoungstown.org

**Broadway 360 MINIS! (Ages 5-9)**
**The Lion King**
These one-day musical theater workshops are designed to introduce youth to singing, acting and dancing a portion of a Broadway production number in just 2 hours. Previous workshops have included the musicals Matilda and Mary Poppins. A superb training opportunity for young artists to dabble in “triple-threat” land.
**Date:** Sunday, Jan. 30, 2016
**Time:** 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.
**$35/Member $45/Non-Member Minimum: 8**

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**Liz Rubino’s Broadway 360 SPOTLIGHT! (Ages 10-21)**
**Wicked**
These one-day musical theater workshops are designed to teach a “triple-threat” segment of a day in the life of a Broadway rehearsal. Students will sing, dance and act an entire Broadway musical number in just 3 hours.
**Date:** Sunday, Jan. 30, 2016
**Time:** 12:30-3:30 p.m.
**$50/Member $60/Non-Member Minimum: 8**

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**Liz Rubino Studios Presents: Movie Magic!**
Become the star of your own movie. Join Liz Rubino and instructors as they present this exciting film scene, writing and film acting course. Participants will write and develop a short movie scene and become the cast of the movie they write. For children ages 10+.
**Date:** Feb. 1, 2, 3, 4, 2016
**January 2016**

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**TIME: 4:15 – 6:15 p.m.**
**Location:** JCC
**$30/Member, $40/Non-Member Maximum Participants: 15**

**Hip-Hop! (Ages 7-12)**
Enjoy the fundamentals and specialty moves of hip-hop and breakdance in a high energy, fun, athletic environment with awesome beats and a fabulous instructor. Also, for those 13 and over, check out our adult hip-hop class one hour before with LRS and Group X.
**Dates:** Saturdays, Beginning Feb. 6 (8-week course)
**Time:** 11:00 – 11:55 a.m.
**$55/Member $65/Non-Member or Drop-In Rate $8 Minimum 5**

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**One-Day Workshops**

**Make em’ Laugh! Clowning & Juggling! (Ages 10-21)**
Participants will work with specialty instructor, Jeff Hafer (AEA), on the art of clowning. This one-day master class will lay the foundation for young performers to learn the inner workings of comedy, as they explore the rule of 3, pecking order, and slapstick, in the context of created scenes and comic “bits” We’ll also learn 3 ball juggling. Come dressed to move and bring objects from home to juggle.
**Date:** Sunday, Feb. 7
**Time:** 1 – 3 p.m.
**$35/Member $45/Non-Member Minimum: 5**

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**FITNESS**

For more information on Fitness and Personal Training contact: Keith Harry 330-746-3250 ext. 182 or kharry@jccyoungstown.org.

**Get fit fast with Personal Training at the JCC!**
**Personal Training Benefits**
- Personalized safe and effective fitness programs
- Achieve goals in a short time period
- Improve muscle coordination, strength, endurance, and flexibility

Personal Training sessions now include weighted rope training, suspension training and battle rope training.

**Youth Personal Training (ages 8-13)**
- A package of three, 30-minute personal training sessions, $66.00 (member)
- Upper body, lower body, cardio, and abdominal training specific
- Proper gym etiquette and fitness center behavior emphasized
- At the conclusion of the three sessions, the attendee will receive a special name tag which will allow them to utilize the center and its offerings with adult supervision if between the ages of 8-13

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**GROUP EXERCISE**

**Pickleball is Growing at the JCC**
If you have never played Pickleball now is the time to learn. It’s a fun sport that combines elements of tennis, badminton and ping-pong. Anyone can play and all skill levels are welcome at the JCC. We have instructors on hand if you need to learn the game. Join us!
**Monday & Wednesday:** 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
**Tuesday & Thursday:** 4:30-6:30 p.m.
**Friday:** 9:00-11:00 a.m.
**Sunday:** 11:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

**Group Exercise Classes We Love!**

**Yoga**
This is a gentle stretching class for beginner and intermediate students. The emphasis will be on body positioning and breathing that promotes a peaceful connection among your mind, body and spirit.
**Date:** Tues & Thurs
**Time:** 8:00-8:55 a.m.

**Cross Training**
Challenge your body and build lean muscle by engaging in a variety of exercises. This class will include lunges, weighted squats, jumping jacks, sprints and more. Weights, medicine balls, steps, and body bars will be incorporated. This exciting new class changes weekly.
**Date:** Tues/Thurs
**Time:** 4:30-5:25 p.m.

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**Jewish Community Center**

**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.

**Small Group Lessons**
All Small Group Learn-to-Swim classes start on the first Saturday of each month. Classes run monthly. The deadline to register is the 25th of the previous month. (Dec 25 for Jan classes)

**You & Me Baby**
This is a monthly class where... (Continued on p. 20)
On behalf of the
Youngstown Area Jewish Federation
Annual Campaign
Thank you
To everyone one who participated and donated
To the 2015 Combined Jewish Appeal/Annual Campaign
Of the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation
We rely on the community to make a positive difference
To Jews in need in the Mahoning and Shenango valleys,
Around the world, and in Israel.
Our donors make us the best small community
in North America!
We look forward to another successful year of enriching events
and programs.
www.JewishYoungstown.org
(330) 746-3251
The Youngstown Area Jewish Federation comprises six agencies that serve the needs of the Jewish community in the Mahoning and Shenango Valleys: Jewish Community Center, Heritage Manor, Jewish Community Relations Council, Levy Gardens, Jewish Family Services, and The Jewish Journal.

Participants in the Maccabi sports program meet other Jewish youth from around the country and the world.

Heritage Manor, a skilled nursing facility like no other, meets the needs of the community’s aging population.

Akiva’s 2015 graduating class. Akiva Academy, open to students of all faiths, excels in the education it provides.

Trips to sites such as the Maltz Museum engage adult participants, through “Darlene’s Destinations” at the Jewish Community Center.

The Jewish Community Relations Council brought U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown to Levy Gardens to answer residents’ questions and discuss the news from Washington, D.C.

All ages participated in Mitzvah Day, a community-wide effort to help those in need in the region and in Israel.
Allan Samuel Weinblatt

Allan Samuel Weinblatt, 76, of Memphis, TN, died on Tuesday, Dec. 15, 2015 after a long illness.

Allan was born on January 15, 1939 in Toledo, OH to Beatrice (Bess) Cannon Weinblatt and Harold Weinblatt.

He spent his childhood in Toledo with his younger brother, Howard, and his extended family of grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins.

He graduated from Devilbiss High School. On July 26, 1964, he married Sherry Moritz of Ft. Worth, TX. He attended The Ohio State University and served as a medic in the First Armored Division – 13th Calvary of the U.S. Army from 1961-1963.

He and Sherry moved to Youngstown, OH, in 1967, when he became owner and president of the Cleveland Auto Wrecking Company, which he lead until a health-related early retirement in 2000.

He also served on and was president of the Motor Vehicle Dealers Board for the state of Ohio during the 1980s. He was a long-time member of Temple El Emeth in Youngstown and was involved in community-theater both as a volunteer and performer.

He had a passion for cars and owned a large collection of antique vehicles.

Allan is survived by his wife, Sherry Weinblatt of Memphis, TN; his daughter Lori Weinblatt and son-in-law David Hilton of Portland, ME; his daughter Betzy Lynch and son-in-law Spencer Lynch of Birmingham, AL; his grandchildren Leo Hilton, Elinor Hilton, Cooper Lynch, and Corene (Renie) Lynch; his brother Dr. Howard Weinblatt and sister-in-law Judy of Ann Arbor, MI; his niece and nephew Lois Weinblatt and Aaron Weinblatt; and his beloved dog, Dezzi.

Allan was buried in Elmwood Cemetery in Birmingham, AL, on Dec. 17, 2015, officiated by Rabbi Yossi Posner, eulogized by his brother and daughters.

He was also remembered as a generous, accepting, loving storyteller who offered great enjoyment and support to his family and community during a service on Dec. 20, 2015 at the Memphis Jewish Home. Donations in his memory may be made to Hillel of Memphis, 3581 Midland Street, Memphis TN 38111 or any charity/cause of choice.

Bertha ‘Mimi’ Sniderman

YOUNGSTOWN - Services were held on Dec. 2 at the El Emeth Cemetery Chapel on Granada Avenue for Bertha ”Mimi” Sniderman, 90, who died Nov. 30 at her home.

Mimi was born to Goldie and Morris Mark on July 16, 1925, in Brooklyn, N.Y.

She married Harvey Sniderman and moved to Youngstown in 1948.

She was a member of Temple El Emeth.

She is survived by her four children, Karol (Anthony) Berliner of St. Paul, MN., Mark (Lynn) of Solon, Glenn of Youngstown, and Jerold (Cherie) of Marietta, GA.; nine grandchildren; and one great-granddaughter.

Mimi was preceded in death by her parents, husband, and four siblings.

Memorials can be directed to The Butler Institute of American Art and/or Temple El Emeth.

Mimi’s family would like to extend their appreciation to the staffs and caregivers from MVI Hospice Care and Home Instead Senior Care for the care and friendship they provided.

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

Jack Lyman

Jack Lyman, who was 99 years old, died Dec. 9 at 11 a.m. at the Veterans Home in Yountville, CA, where he had been living.

Mr. Lyman was a bachelor all his life. His parents were Sadie (Grossman) Lyman and Dr. Louis Lyman.

Mr. Lyman was born in Youngstown Oct. 4, 1916. After attending Rayen High School, Mr. Lyman graduated and went into World War II, during which he saw action overseas.

After returning from the war, he decided to go to California for the rest of his life. He worked for WABC for about 10 years, then went to work for the U.S. government and retired when he was 65.

Mr. Lyman had a brother, Richard who died in the War, two sisters, Peggy (Lyman) Wagman, and Adele (Lyman) Malkin who both lived in Youngstown.

He leaves two nieces, Ellen (Wagman) Barny of California and Nancy (Malkin) Gottesfeld, and a nephew Richard Malkin, of California, and nephew Daniel Malkin of Youngstown.

Beatrice Guralnik Herman

Beatrice Guralnik Herman passed away on Nov. 7, 2015 in Cleveland.

Born on July 23, 1925 in Cleveland, Ohio, Bea was the youngest child of Julius and Rose Guralnik. She graduated from Glenville High School in 1943 and attended Flora Stone Mather College of Western Reserve University for two years. She left school when her fiancé was killed in WWII.

In 1947 she met and married Dr. Donald Herman, and they shared 63 years together until he died in 2010. They moved to Warren, Ohio in 1948 and opened the Co-Optical optometry practice. Bea worked as the bookkeeper for nearly 45 years.

The Hermans were members of Beth Israel Temple Center, where Bea was active in the Sisterhood. She also belonged to the Warren Chapter of Hadassah.

Bea was known for her creative theme parties for holidays celebrated in her home, her cooking and knitting talents. Her love of plants was expanded when she added a green...
James Makoff Yasinow

James Makoff Yasinow, former president of the Cleveland Jewish News Board of Directors, died Nov. 27 at his home in Lyndhurst. He was 84.

Services were held Dec. 1, at The Park Synagogue East in Pepper Pike. Interment took place at Zion Memorial Park.

“He was the kindest man you’ld ever meet,” said his daughter, Debbie Yasinow, assistant director of marketing and communications for arts, culture and events for the Jewish Federation of Cleveland. “He was born a mensch, and that’s how he lived his life.

“He was always working to make life better for everyone around him. He was an eternal optimist; he always had a smile on his face and a kind word.”

Melissa Yasinow, a lawyer, added, “I never heard an angry word or a sarcastic word from him. It was always in his vocabulary to be kind. He always set a good example.”

At Mr. Yasinow’s funeral service, his son, Dr. Eric Yasinow, described him as “a 5-foot-2-inch giant.”

“He was a giant in intellect, a giant in his capacity to demonstrate love, and a giant measured by his leadership,” said Eric Yasinow. “He loved without reservation. He loved with his whole, giant heart.”

Eric Yasinow noted his father’s proudest achievement during his tenure as president of the CJN board was the establishment of a pension program for CJN employees. He served as board president from 1995 to 1998.

After Mr. Yasinow’s retirement as a human resources manager in the late 1990s from American Greetings Corp., where he worked for more than 25 years, he focused much of his time on singing with the Cleveland East Suburbanaires, a barbershop harmony chorus. A 1949 graduate of Cleveland Heights High School, he inspired the founding of the Heights High Barbershop singers, who won a national competition last year.

Mr. Yasinow, who grew up in Cleveland Heights, was inducted into the Cleveland Heights High School Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame. He earned a bachelor’s degree in journalism at The Ohio State University in Columbus and an MBA from Harvard Business School in Boston. He was an officer in the U.S. Air Force.

A longtime member of Park Synagogue in Cleveland Heights and Pepper Pike, Yasinow served on the synagogue’s board of trustees and as president of its men’s club. In 1988, he received the Centerite Award, Park’s highest honor, and last year, the Park men’s club presented him with a lifetime achievement award.

Mr. Yasinow and his wife of 56 years, Marcia, who died in 2013, were recipients in 2009 of the Ohio Governor’s Joined Hearts in Giving Award, which honors Ohioans who have been married 40 years or longer and who share a commitment to volunteerism and community service. They also were part of the chaplaincy program of the Jewish Federation of Cleveland.

A former member of the Greater Cleveland Food Bank board of directors, Mr. Yasinow also volunteered at The Gathering Place in Beachwood and for the Jewish Federation of Cleveland’s Campaign for Jewish Needs.

Mr. Yasinow was the photographer for family events and a member of the Chagrin Valley Camera Club. He also took part in Senior Olympics in tennis and enjoyed golf.

“He made the world a better place and loved his family and the community,” Debbie Yasinow said.

Mr. Yasinow was the devoted father of Eric (Paulette Balin,) Yasinow, Bobby Yasinow, and Debbie Yasinow. Adored grandfather of Melissa (Matthew Shupe,) Denise, Adam, Scott (Sasha Ross,) Spencer, and Trevor Yasinow. Dear brother of Louise Shultz. Loving uncle of Miriam Rose (Dan,) Laura Maoz (Amichai,) Steven, and Barry (Tami) Shultz; Jody (Dan Redding-ton,) Jeff (Buck Propst,) and Joshua Spiegel. Preceded in death by parents Dr. Aaron B. and Rose Makoff Yasinow, and brother Harvey. Loyal and trusted friend to many and tireless volunteer.

As Cleveland Heights City Council Member Melissa Yasinow drove to work on the morning of Friday, Nov. 6, her mind was on her grandfather. Stuck in a hospital, hooked to machines, what would cheer him up? Blind for several years, he couldn’t watch a Cavs game or enjoy a new book. What would bring some joy to this beloved old man’s day?

After a few quick phone calls, and the willing approval of school administrators, four members of the nationally recognized Heights Barbershop singers were pulled from their classes to rehearse for another type of show altogether.

It was all to honor their hero, James Yasinow, a 1949 Heights graduate and a member of the CHHS Alumni Hall of Fame. Mr. Yasinow didn’t participate in music when he was a student at Heights because there wasn’t much of a program in those days. But as a longtime resident of the community, he had followed the impressive rise of the music department over the years, and reached out to share his own passion in 2006. As a member of the Cleveland East Suburbanaires, he wanted to encourage the school’s vocal music director, Craig Mcgaughey, to start an a cappella barbershop group.

So, Ball and fellow Barbershop singers Maurice Powers and Orion Brock, both seniors, and sophomore Grant Heine were eager to give back, and spent Friday rehearsing some songs they had heard Yasinow sing. By 2 p.m. that afternoon, the impromptu quartet was on its way to Ahuja Medical Center, so James Yasinow could hear them sing — bringing a huge smile to his face.

Harvey Faber Block, OD

COLUMBUS— Longtime Youngstown resident, Harvey Faber Block OD, died Dec. 31, 2015, in Columbus, at the age of 91.

He was the fourth child born to Morris and Alice Faber Bloch. His siblings, Sylvia Segall, Rosalind Chase, and Bernard Bloch, all predeceased him.

After graduating from Chaney High School, Dr. Block attended The Ohio State University, where in 1946, he received his Doctor of Optometry degree and opened a private practice in Girard.

During that time, he met and married Myrna Altshuler, also of Youngstown. Their marriage lasted 70 years until Myrna’s death in May 2014.

The two are survived by six children, Terence Block, Wendy Allen, Kathy Dougherty, Richard Block, Robert Block, and Heidi Sundry; six grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren.

After stints in the military and minor league baseball, Dr. Block devoted himself for the next 50 years to providing excellent eye care to residents of the Youngstown metropolitan area. A life-long Buckeye fan, he was an avid golfer, capable of turning the average living room into a functional driving range. At age 58, he became the oldest golfer to win the club championship at the former Squaw Creek Country Club, not long after his eldest son, Terence, had become the club’s youngest champion. Kathy Dougherty went on to be an active member of the LPGA, first as a touring professional and then as a teaching professional.

A service is planned for early next year. The family asks that any donations in Harvey’s name be made to the Make-A-Wish Foundation at wish.org/content/contact-us.
More Christian-Arab Israelis enlisting in Israeli military than ever before.

Christian-Arab Israeli soldiers celebrate Christmas

Recently, Father Naddaf gathered some of these Israeli Christian soldiers for a Christmas party, delivering treats and thanking them for their service to Israel.

JERUSALEM, Dec. 23 — Amid increasing discrimination — and even violence — against Christian minorities across the Middle East, a small program in Israel is dramatically increasing the number of Christian-Arab Israelis who join the Israeli military, with the aim of integrating this minority population into mainstream Israeli society.

With support from the International Fellowship of Christians and Jews, the Israeli Christians Recruitment Forum, led by Father Gabriel Naddaf of Nazareth, is multiplying the number of Christian Arabs enlisting in the Israel Defense Forces from just 40 in 2012 to more than 100 in 2014. In March 2015 alone, 102 Christian Arabs were inducted into the army, through the Forum.

Minorities in the Jewish State are not drafted into the IDF, although the Arab Druze minority has remained an exception, and Druze have faithfully served since Israel’s creation in 1948. Father Naddaf hopes some of Israel’s 165,000 Arab Christians, whom he prefers to call “Israeli Christians,” will follow, identifying and being perceived as patriotic Israeli rather than enemies of the state.

“Calling them ‘Arab-Christian’ puts them on the side of Palestinians and terrorists, when, in reality, they’ve lived in Israel for generations and just want to live in peace and security,” said Naddaf.

The Forum, which also provides financial aid to needy Christian families and discharged soldiers, does not receive government support, but last week Father Naddaf and the Fellowship were recognized by Israel’s Defense Minister, Moshe Yaalon.

“I believe Israel’s Christian community should integrate more into mainstream Israeli society,” said Naddaf. “Why do the Druze serve? Why do the Bedouin serve? But not the Christians? It’s because they’re scared. This has to change. It’s time to say in a loud and clear voice: enough.”

At a Jerusalem ceremony, Father Naddaf thanked “Christian donors around the world” for supporting him through the Fellowship. “Your assistance is essential for the strength of Israeli society,” he said. “This society will achieve peace and defeat evil.”

Rabbi Yechiel Eckstein founded the International Fellowship of Christians and Jews (The Fellowship) in 1983 to promote better understanding and cooperation between Christians and Jews, and build broad support for Israel.

Today, The Fellowship is the world’s largest organization of Christians actively working with Jews to support Israel and the Jewish people. Since its founding, The Fellowship has raised close to $1.25 billion for this work. The organization has offices in the U.S., Israel, Canada, Australia, Brazil, and South Korea. For more information please visit www.ifcj.org.

FIDF Ohio to host panel for Florida snowbirds

BOCA RATON, Fla., Dec. 15 – Ohio natives wintering in Florida will gather for a Friends of the Israel Defense Forces (FIDF) Ohio Chapter event on Tuesday, Jan. 12, at the Boca Raton residence of Ileen and Irv Rosner to meet IDF officers and discuss the important roles women play in the military.

Women in Israel are required to serve a minimum of two years in the armed forces and the IDF is widely considered a world leader in integrating women into the military. The event, starting at 6:30 p.m., will feature a keynote speech by Brig. Gen. (Res.) Gila Klifi-Amir, a 30-year veteran of the IDF who served as the Chief of the General Staff’s advisor on women’s affairs and handled all matters relating to women’s service in the Israeli military.

“As a woman officer, I often found myself trying to break the glass ceiling,” said Klifi-Amir. “Up until 20 years ago, women in the IDF served in a narrow range of administration and support roles. Today, 92% of the jobs in the IDF are open to women, who serve as pilots, infantry soldiers, artillery combat soldiers, electronic warfare specialists, and anti-aircraft and naval officers.”

Also attending will be Israeli Air Force helicopter pilot Cpt. “K,” FIDF Ohio Chairman Irwin Haber; and FIDF Ohio Director Lane Schlessel.

FIDF was established in 1981 by a group of Holocaust survivors as a 501(C)(3) not-for-profit organization with the mission of providing and supporting educational, social, cultural, and recreational programs and facilities for the heroic men and women of the IDF. Today, FIDF has more than 150,000 loyal supporters, and 15 regional offices throughout the U.S. and Panama. FIDF proudly offers its support to IDF soldiers, families of fallen soldiers, and wounded veterans through a variety of unique and innovative programs. These opportunities reinforce the vital bond between the communities in the United States, the soldiers of the IDF, and the State of Israel. For more information, please visit: www.fidf.org.
Midwest Region brings hundreds of sufganiyot to Israeli soldiers

Hundreds of Israeli soldiers enjoyed Hanukkah celebrations on Israel Defense Forces bases across Israel thanks to support from the Friends of the Israel Defense Forces Midwest Region.

FIDF’s ambassadors in Israel brought messages of hope and light – and sufganiyot – to the IDF’s Paratroopers Brigade, which the FIDF Midwest Region adopted as part of the FIDF Adopt-A-Brigade Program, which allows supporters to go beyond their donation to get more involved, providing financial aid for IDF soldiers and their families, supporting Lone Soldiers, and funding general wellbeing activities and weeks of rest and recuperation for soldiers of the adopted brigade.

About Friends of the Israel Defense Forces (FIDF):

FIDF was established in 1981 by a group of Holocaust survivors as a 501(C)(3) not-for-profit organization with the mission of providing and supporting educational, social, cultural, and recreational programs and facilities for the heroic men and women of the IDF. Today, FIDF has more than 150,000 loyal supporters, and 15 regional offices throughout the U.S. and Panama. FIDF proudly offers its support to IDF soldiers, families of fallen soldiers, and wounded veterans through a variety of unique and innovative programs. These opportunities reinforce the vital bond between the communities in the United States, the soldiers of the IDF, and the State of Israel. For more information, please visit: www.fidf.org.

Soldiers from the IDF’s Paratroopers Brigade celebrating the third night of Hanukkah in Hebron thanks to support from the FIDF Midwest Region.

Beatrice Guralnik Herman (Continued from p. 16)

house to her home. Bea and Don actually helped to build their unique home and enjoyed extensive traveling.

Bea was the loving mother of Jeffrey (Patricia Cluss) Herman, Daniel (Deborah Bouton) Herman, Russ Herman and Benjamin (Martin SAVEDRA) Herman. She was the devoted grandmother of Ann (Ryan) Keough, Laura Herman, Joshua (Gwen Gillespie) Herman, Anna Herman, Julia Herman and David Herman. Great grandchildren are Gabrielle, Natalie, C.J. Keough and Mira Herman. She was the dear sister of Sylvia Eigenfeld and the late David Guralnik and the cherished aunt, especially of Judy Eigenfeld. (Richard Maron).

Contributions in her memory may be made to Helen’s Place Alzheimer’s and Dementia Center, 27090 Cedar Rd., Beachwood, OH 44122.
Norwegian Muslims form human chain around Synagogue

A group of Muslims in Oslo, Norway made a powerful statement against anti-Semitism in February by organizing a “human chain” of more than 1,000 people to show solidarity with Jews just a week after a fatal shooting at a Denmark synagogue. Muslims in Norway, many of them young women, formed what they dubbed a “ring of peace” around the city of Oslo’s main synagogue, greeting members of the small Jewish congregation as they filed out of the house of worship after Sabbath prayers. Organizers said the message to the Jews in Norway was simple: that they stand in solidarity with victims of anti-Semitism against Jews in Europe, including the terror attacks in France in January and in Denmark.

Alert American soldiers thwart attack on Paris train

Three Americans, including a member of the Air Force, an inactive National Guard member and a civilian, knew something was wrong when they heard the tell-tale sounds of weapons being assembled and loaded in a bathroom aboard a train speeding through Belgium bound for Paris. When a man emerged from the bathroom, shirtless and with a high-power rifle slung over his shoulder, the officer responded, overpowering the gunman and wrestling him to the ground before he could begin the attack. The gunman, a Moroccan national, was on the radar of European counter-terrorism agencies for his radical extremist views. ADL later honored Spencer Stone, Anthony Sadler and Alex Skarlatos for preventing the August terror attack with the ADL Heroism Award at an event in Silicon Valley.

Pope Francis celebrates 50th anniversary of Nostra Aetate; makes first visit to U.S.

Pope Francis inspired millions of people in October as he brought a message of peace and interfaith harmony to the U.S., where he also took time to meet with Jewish community representatives in Philadelphia and New York and participate in a conference celebrating the Golden Jubilee of Nostra Aetate, the document that transformed 2,000 years of church teaching on Jews and Judaism. The pope traveled with Rabbi Dr. Abraham Skorka, his close friend and interfaith collaborator from Buenos Aires, with him he co-authored a book on Catholic-Jewish dialogue. And he invited Jewish community leaders to an interfaith service at the 9/11 Museum in New York City, which opened and closed with remarks from Jewish participants. The pope’s inspirational leadership in 2015 included several statements throughout the year forcefully and strongly condemning the evils of anti-Semitism.

Transgender Americans move from the margin to the mainstream

President Obama became the first president to say the word transgender in a State of the Union address, hired the first out transgender staffer, Rafi Friedman-Gurspan, and appointed transgender attorney Shannon Price Minter to the President’s Commission on White House Fellowships. Amazon’s groundbreaking show “Transparent,” about a transgender parent, won five Emmys, a Golden Globe, and numerous other awards. More than 16.8 million people tuned in to ABC’s 20/20 to hear athlete Caitlyn Jenner come out to Diane Sawyer as transgender. And Scott Turner Schofield became the first openly transgender actor to play a major role on daytime television, as the character Nick on the show The Bold and the Beautiful.

U.N. General Assembly convenes first-ever session on anti-Semitism

At a time when anti-Semitism was on the rise around the world, the U.N. General Assembly convened an important session dedicated to combating this pernicious hatred against Jews. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon joined ministers from Germany, France and the European Union and Ambassadors from approximately 50 governments in raising their voices at the General Assembly at its first meeting dedicated to the rise of anti-Semitism worldwide. In a statement of support for the session, President Obama said, “Combatting anti-Semitism is an essential responsibility for all of us.” And U.S. Ambassador Samantha Power warned that, “If we fail to expand dramatically the ranks of those fighting anti-Semitism, not only will we fail in our obligations to the Jewish people, but we will see the weakening in our own societies of the rights and bonds that tie us all together.”

Boy donates life savings to Mosque

Seven-year-old Jack Swanson was so upset after learning about the vandalism of a Texas mosque near his home in November that he decided to empty his piggy bank and donate his life savings — $20 that had been collected in pennies over time — to the Islamic Center of Pflugerville, Texas. “Jack’s twenty dollars are worth $20 million to us because it’s the thought that counts,” said a pleasantly surprised member of the mosque’s board. “Jack is just a little older than my son, Ibrahim. If we have more kind-hearted kids like them in the world, I have hope for our future.”

Immigration activist Lorella Praeli gains her citizenship

Lorella Praeli, a DREAMer who lived in the country without legal status for almost 13 years and who became an activist in the youth movement that has pushed for a path to citizenship for an estimated 11 million people living in the country without legal rights, took the oath of citizenship at a ceremony at the National Archives in Washington, D.C., ending her long struggle to become a U.S. citizen. Originally from Peru, Praeli’s outspoken activism with United We Dream has inspired thousands with a message that immigrants have a voice in this country, and her optimistic message has served as a counterpoint to those politicians and pundits who have opposed immigration reform that includes a pathway to citizenship. Praeli says she found her voice after her early involvement with anti-bias programs in ADL’s Connecticut Region.

The Anti-Defamation League, founded in 1913, is the world’s leading organization fighting anti-Semitism through programs and services that counteract hatred, prejudice and bigotry.
Morocco’s King Mohammed V honored for protecting Jews

Washington, DC, Dec. 23, 2015 (MACP) - King Mohammed VI’s late grandfather, Mohammed V, posthumously received the inaugural Reverend Martin Luther King Jr.-Rabbi Abraham Heschel Award in a ceremony attended by hundreds on Sunday at B’nai Jeshurun congregation in New York City. Initiated this year by KIVUNIM: the Institute for World Jewish Studies, the award honors King Mohammed V for protecting Morocco’s 250,000 Jews from discrimination and annihilation in the early 1940s, when Morocco was a French protectorate occupied by the pro-Nazi Vichy forces.

Princess Lalla Hassna, King Mohammed VI’s sister, accepted the award on behalf of her late grandfather. Dignitaries from Morocco’s Jewish community, including royal advisor André Azoulay and Secretary General of the Council of Jewish Communities of Morocco (CJCM) and Ambassador-at-Large Serge Berdugo, also attended the ceremony.

In a speech read to the audience by Mr. Azoulay, King Mohammed VI said, “We are living at a time and in a world in which the collective imagination of our societies is too often impaired, not to say poisoned, by regression and archaism. By capitalizing on the depth and resilience of the legacy left by my revered grandfather His Majesty Mohammed V, we can, together, set out to recover the lost expanses of reason and mutual respect which have vanished from many parts of the world.”

The award ceremony came just one month after Morocco unveiled its just-completed “Houses of Life” project, which since 2010 has restored 167 Jewish cemeteries across the North African Kingdom under the high patronage of King Mohammed VI. In a Capitol Hill event co-sponsored by the American Jewish Committee and CJCM honoring the project, Senator Ben Cardin (D-MD) and Representative André Carson (D-IN), recognized Morocco’s leadership in the area of religious tolerance.

“This is a major moment,” Senator Cardin, Ranking Member of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, had said, “and what you are doing in Morocco will be an inspiration to leaders in other parts of the world to bring our communities together and to recognize that diversity is our strength, it is our heritage, it is our future.”

Congressman Carson, who is a member of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, had also commended Morocco for setting an example “for all of us, to celebrate the future of peaceful coexistence, and effectively unity.”

“King Mohammed V’s courage and strength in protecting his Jewish subjects during World War II reminds us of Morocco’s rich history and long tradition of religious freedom, cultural diversity, and peaceful coexistence between Jews and Muslims unrivalled in the Arab world,” said former US Ambassador to Morocco Edward M. Gabriel. “This respect for Morocco’s Jewish heritage continues to this day.”

U.N. General Assembly adopts Israeli resolution

NEW YORK - World Jewish Congress CEO and Executive Vice President Robert Singer welcomed the United Nations General Assembly’s decision to adopt an Israeli resolution to utilize agricultural technology for sustainable development, despite the Arab bloc’s attempts to prevent its passage because it was submitted by Israel.

The resolution passed Tuesday, with 146 votes in favor, none against and 36 abstentions. The resolution promotes accessible agricultural technology in areas stricken by poverty and hunger, as well as natural disasters such as drought.

“So many regions suffering from hunger and drought will benefit immensely from this resolution, which will enable them access to the technological tools necessary for helping themselves in times of need, thanks to Israel’s leadership in the field,” Singer said. “I welcome the General Assembly’s recognition of this important resolution and the humane solutions it provides, despite efforts by Israel’s detractors to bury it simply because it was submitted by the Jewish state.”

Singer also praised Israel’s Permanent Representative to the UN, Danny Danon, for his active efforts in promoting the resolution.

The World Jewish Congress has lobbied in recent months for the passage of the resolution in diplomatic meetings with various governments and representative bodies, particularly on the sidelines of the UNGA in late September.

Yiddish Theatre (cont’d from p. 10)

sented in the Museum’s unique Core Exhibition and award-winning special exhibitions. Acclaimed public programs, including discussions, films, plays, and concerts, highlight the richness of Jewish culture and ideas. The Museum’s mission extends across the country and the world with Fellowships at Auschwitz for the Study of Professional Ethics and initiatives with affiliate organizations: the Auschwitz Jewish Center and JewishGen. www.mjhny.org
**Ethiopian Concept night!**

We’re inviting you to participate in traditional Ethiopian coffee ceremony. We’ll learn recipes of traditional Ethiopian food while listening to a lecture about the immigration of Ethiopian Jews to Israel. Light meal will be served.

**Thursday, January 7th, 2016**
6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Adult lounge in the JCC

Cost: $10/Member
$15/Non member

Must R.S.V.P by 01.03.2016
To Gon Erez at 330-746-3250 ext. 159
or
gerez@jewishyoungstown.org

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**From the Virgin Islands to the holy land — a lunch-and-learn program**

Jocheved Brannigan was born as a Christian in the Virgin Islands. Later in her life, she discovered the Jewish World and converted to Judaism. After her conversion she decided to make Aliyah (immigrated to Israel). Jocheved lived in an orthodox town where she fell in love and married an Israeli man.

Jocheved passed away three years ago. Her daughter Maayana, today is the Shlicha in Akron, and she will tell the story of her mother’s life.

Date: Wednesday, Feb.3,
Time: 11:30-1:00 p.m.
Location: Multi-Purpose Room.
This event is free and open to the public.

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**A new year – the Shlichim perspective**

Every ending is a beginning of something new. All beginnings are difficult. But is the ending any less difficult? If not, where is the fun? Where is the joy?

Fun is in the great friend that was once a total stranger, and you ask yourself, “Why was I too shy to say hello at the beginning?”

Fun is accomplishing something and remembering how hard it was at the beginning.

Fun is seeing the flower grow after you planted it as a seed.

Fun is seeing the result of the diet and thinking about how you were when you began it.

Fun is in seeing your kids grow and becoming successful, and remembering how nervous you were when they didn’t do their homework.

Fun is in seeing the actual speech after it began with just one sentence and zero ideas.

Fun can be everywhere and all the time. It’s all a matter of the right attitude.

Every day is a new beginning.
Isn’t it nice to think that tomorrow is a new day with no mistakes in it?
Don’t wait until the end before you see what you’ve done. Enjoy all the way and embrace the beginning. This way, the new beginning will always look brighter.

So, what is so hard about beginnings?
Is it the new faces? New systems? New partner? New teacher or students?
Maybe we need to get used to something new or change something we loved.

Maybe we feel older, or feel as if we need to improve ourselves all the way from the start.

Sometimes, we are so busy with the difficulties of the beginnings and forget to dream about the future, forget why we have this new beginning.

With every new beginning we get new opportunities. We get a blank page, or sometimes this page is half full. It’s up to us to decide.

Whether it’s the beginning of a new school year, a new job, or a new life, beginnings are the basis for every big success. Let’s not waste them with thinking “what if?”

Every day is a new beginning. Live the moment, and dream the future.

Happy New Year!

Gon and Shai.

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**Worth Celebrating**

**Congratulations to —**

Joelle Umstead, daughter of Raymond Umstead and Gail Bloom Umstead, received her Masters of Arts degree in Speech-Language Pathology from Kent State University in December, 2015.

She graduated Summa Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Science degree, minoring in Jewish studies in May, 2014 from Kent State University.

Following a trip to Israel, Joelle with be residing in Columbus, OH, to pursue her career.

**Welcome to the World —**

Olivia Sara Cole was born Nov. 29 to Kevin and Marissa Cole. Kevin is the son of Bonnie and Michael Cole and the grandson of Abe and Florence Harshman. They reside in Sudbury Mass. Olivia has a 2 1/2 year old sister Juliana.
In 2016, Chabad’s personal touch might make largest strides for college campus outreach

By Jeffrey F. Barken/JNS.org

The Chabad-Lubavitch movement’s robust Internet presence, and its network of emissaries who foster Jewish life in communities ranging from the urban to the remote, are two of the most common elements associated with the Hassidic sect. But at the start of 2016, Chabad might be poised to make its largest strides in the arena of the college campus.

In November, nearly 5,200 Chabad rabbis and community leaders from 86 countries gathered in Brooklyn, N.Y., for the International Conference of Chabad-Lubavitch Emissaries. The annual conference demonstrates the enthusiasm shared by Chabad emissaries as they seek to revive Jewish awareness and practices around the world.

In the wake of the conference, Chabad leaders are devoting renewed energy and resources to the Chabad on Campus program. Efforts to bring the Chabad movement to colleges and universities began in the 1940s. Today, the campus mission is seeing rapid growth. There are currently 230 Chabad campus centers serving Jewish students at 500 schools. Typically, a Chabad-Lubavitch couple staffs each center, with the initiative echoing the principles of openness and outreach that define Chabad in general.

“Many parents of current students forged relationships with emmissaries years ago,” Rabbi Yossy Gordon, executive vice president of Chabad on Campus International, tells JNS.org. “Now, we’re seeing their children at their alma maters doing the same thing. It’s become generational, somewhat of a family tradition for young men and women to return not only to the school their parents went to, but to Shabbat tables and Torah classes at local Chabad centers as well.”

Rabbi Levi Slonim, head of programming and development at The Rohr Chabad Center for Jewish Student Life at State University of New York (SUNY), Binghamton, has witnessed firsthand the exponential growth of Chabad on Campus. He is the son of Rabbi Aaron Slonim and his wife, Rivkah, the couple that founded the SUNY Binghamton chapter 30 years ago. He now serves alongside his parents with his wife, Hadasa.

“My parents initially rented a one-bedroom apartment. Sometimes they would have 5-15 students over for Shabbat dinner. Today, we have a steady 300-400 students attending Shabbat dinners,” Rabbi Levi Slonim tells JNS.org.

The Binghamton Chabad center has grown alongside the university, which now attracts many students from Jewishly observant and Orthodox homes. The fact that married couples manage most Chabad houses establishes a home-like atmosphere characterized by a family’s devotion to the population and philosophy they serve.

“Typically, it’s a lifetime commitment,” Levi Slonim explains. “We serve until we have fulfilled the need, and it’s less of a profession and more of a commitment.”

Couples are therefore preferred over singles as Chabad emmissaries, because “until you’re married you haven’t really decided your life’s work,” says Slonim, who adds that a Chabad center’s hosts need to be able to address issues of both genders.

“It’s a real partnership,” he says.

As a result of the vast network established by his family during the past 30 years, Slonim now receives daily communications from former SUNY Binghamton students.

“We do reunions once a year, and you get hundreds of people from all different years coming together,” he says. “There are so many people impacted by our services [in ways] we will never know. Suddenly we hear years later…[how] the nature of our work is personal and touches people in different ways.”

The personal aspect, it seems, is the salient common thread underlying the Chabad experience both in person and online.

Websites scattered throughout the Internet provide multiple points of entry. Unlike books, movies, TV shows, and other traditional media, websites have no beginning, middle, or end. Instead, a keyword search directs visitors to specific content of interest. Uniquely, Chabad.org — the website for the Chabad-Lubavitch philosophy, movement, and organization — mimics the real-world interaction that generations of Jews seeking refuge, instruction, and a deeper connection to their faith have found around the world when they encounter Chabad emissaries.

On Chabad.org, a busy three-columned website structure presents diverse subject headings. These links lead to rich content that merges illuminating storytelling with historical anecdotes and descriptions of Chabad services, while positing topics for discussion.

The website’s “About” page states that the Chabad movement’s “system of Jewish religious philosophy” teaches “understanding and recognition of the Creator, the role and purpose of creation, and the importance and unique mission of each creature,” thereby inaugurating a lifelong process of self-reflection that guides an observant person’s daily existence.

Elsewhere on Chabad.org, there is a portal — “Ask the Rabbi”—that answers questions about the Jewish religion. Similarly, visitors seeking guidance on brit milah, bar mitzvah, marriage, and other practices encounter a selection of resources ranging from articles, tutorials, and advice columns. The website, however, ultimately steers visitors toward direct involvement with their local Jewish communities through the “Chabad Locator” search option for Chabad centers.

Jews, from children to college students to adults to the elderly, encounter Chabad emissaries when their curiosity about Judaism, or a longing for community, prompts a concerted exploration. An individual’s path forward is guided by Chabad affiliates, yet ultimately defined by his or her independent discoveries. For that matter, SUNY Binghamton Chabad’s Levi Slonim says the goal of “owning Judaism” is a guiding principle behind his work.
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- Celebrate the mitzvot and simchat of your family and friends!
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