LEVY GARDENS TURNS 20

On Nov. 7, 1996, ground was broken for Levy Gardens as the Heritage Manor board fulfilled its wish to provide a continuum of care for those aging in the community. Morris Bosch, the new building’s first tenant, began living there on Sept. 12, 1997. See story starting on page 12.

Children 26-36 months will be enjoying the “Butterfly Room,” one of the newly renovated classrooms at the JCC’s Early Learning Center. Read more about JCC activities on pages 32-33, and 35.

The staff of the Jewish Journal wishes its readers a year of health, happiness, peace, and blessing.
An eclipse of the White House
By Peter Geffen

Even before Monday afternoon’s solar eclipse we experienced another eclipse: “a loss of significance, power, or prominence” in the White House. It is as if the heavens wanted to emphasize what our television screens and newspaper headlines have been telling us for weeks. The “light” is being obscured. The basic values of our country are under attack not by enemies from outside, but from the office of the president of the United States. In a solar eclipse we experience day as night, and as the Bible says “darkness covered the face of the earth.” The metaphor does not end there, for the temptation to gaze unprotected into the darkness above can permanently damage our vision — our “vision.”

I have spent the last half-century as an educator. I have worked almost exclusively with young Jewish people and their families, but with an increasing sense of interrelationship to the many religious and cultural traditions of the world. In the unique Jewish educational setting of KIVUN IM, we study about and travel into the worlds of Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, and Judaism to encourage and inspire a sense of hopefulness and optimism in our students — ingredients critical to the building of a future for our planet.

But our work may not survive the assault upon the distinction between right and wrong now taking place. The moral equivocation that we have heard from the president and his many advisors and followers over the past weeks sounds the death knell to the lessons of the United States Constitution. Commitment to the principle of basic human dignity requires equality, justice, and peace for all.

Nazism, white (or any other) supremacy, and unmasked ku klux klansm is a threat not just to Jews and African-Americans and people of color. It is an assault upon the very fabric of American democracy and as such is an attack upon democratic values around the world. Those siding with the president and who consider these voices to be simply a “protest-movement” about historical monuments that includes “good people,” misunderstand the power of the word. These words of ultimate bigotry and seething hatred have the power to take us all down.

The insidious quality of this confrontation is most disturbingly revealed in the capacity of some members of the Jewish community, including the prime minister of the State of Israel, to be able to overlook the resurgence of swastikas and storm troopers marching to the beat of violent anti-Semitic chants. This is not an issue of Republican or Democrat. This is a choice between good and evil, right and wrong.

The solar eclipse might offer hope. For its darkness is never absolute. Around its edge we saw a corona that looked like a new country that carried the torch of freedom as its most enduring emblem.

(The Continued on page 15)

The overarching meaning of America
By David Harris
CEO-AJC*

Aug. 24 — As recent events have so vividly illustrated, Americans angrily seem to have turned against one another and embraced increasingly contrasting narratives of past and present.

To truly remind us of the overarching meaning of America — something too often overlooked in the unfolding schisms — it might be refreshing to ask someone who came here from elsewhere.
In my case, that’s easy.

My mother was born in the USSR under Bolshevik rule. She, her parents, and her brother were among the lucky ones to get out in 1929, before the exit doors slammed totally shut. They never, ever looked back.

Joseph Stalin’s iron-fisted and paranoiac rule, including the murder of millions, if not tens of millions, of innocent people in the Gulag, and his maniacal, relentless anti-Semitism, made certain of that.

The foursome found sanctuary in France, or so they thought.

Eleven years later, Nazi German forces easily crossed the allegedly invincible Maginot Line and overran the country. To make matters worse, a collaborationist French regime with its capital in Vichy emerged as a Nazi partner. Once again, the family was on the run, in this case from the industrialized machinery of genocide.

In the end, they were among the fortunate few, managing to get U.S. visas on the eve of the attack on Pearl Harbor, when entry was almost impossible because of a highly restrictive immigration policy here, including for Jews fleeing Europe.

My 94-year-old mother will never forget how their ship, the SS Exeter, sailed into New York Harbor and they had their first glimpse of the Statue of Liberty. No, it wasn’t just a sightseeing opportunity on a Circle Line tour, but rather the welcome mat to a new country that carried the torch of freedom as its most enduring emblem.

(The Continued on page 50)

Americans must remember what the president of our nation forgets
By Patricia R. Kelvin
Editor, The Jewish Journal

Hateful signs, hateful faces, hateful actions — have filled the newspapers the Web, and the airwaves a lot recently. Hate-filled individuals who want to re-fight lost wars, regain a privilege they never had and never deserved, and rely on a man they think supports them but who only supports himself, parade before us.

It calls to mind the words of historian and philosopher George Santana who said, “Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.”

However, now the problem is that the president forgets, and “we the people” are condemned to repeat it.

Was it only three months ago when the president of the United States said at Yad Vashem “It was the most savage crime against God and his children, and it is our solemn duty to remember, to mourn, to grieve and to honor every single life that was so cruelly and viciously taken”?

Yet in his comments after the tragedy at Charlottesville, VA, that “solemn duty” was clearly forgotten.

I’ll explain.

On page 61 of this month’s Journal, readers will find the obituary for Sophie Degan, my cousin who was born Sofia Henryka Muskatblat in Warsaw in 1926. She took her new name when she proudly became an American citizen.

While the obituary pays the most attention to her later happier years, her life between 1939 and 1945 reads like the Martyrology we read on Yom Kippur.

- Warsaw
- Lublin
- Milejow

(Continued on page 15)

For more commentary see p. 31)
September 2017
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Candle-Lighting Times — Shabbat & Holidays

Sept. 1 7:37 p.m.
Sept. 8 7:25 p.m.
Sept. 15 7:31 p.m.

Erev Rosh Hashanah
Sept. 20 7:05 p.m.

First Day, Rosh Hashanah
Sept. 21 after 8:02 p.m.
Sept. 22 7:01 p.m.

Erev Yom Kippur
Sept. 29 6:49 p.m.

Erev Sukkot I
Oct. 4 6:41 p.m.

Erev Sukkot II
Oct. 5 after 7:38 p.m.
Oct. 6 6:38 p.m.

About the Jewish Journal Monthly Magazine

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JJMM Mission Statement

The Youngstown Jewish Journal Monthly Magazine, a publication of the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation, strives to —

Provide a major tool of community communication for the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation and its affiliated agencies;

Provide 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.

Sept. 15 is the deadline for articles and ads for the Oct. 2017 issue.
The conflicts in Ukraine seem so far away from the American experience. Yet the reality of the fighting in the eastern part of that country — flames fanned by Russia — with the displacement of thousands of Jews became apparent to YAJF Executive Director Andy Lipkin and Federation board member Rick Marlin, when they participated in a Leadership Mission to Ukraine and Israel in July.

In an interview with the Jewish Journal, Mr. Marlin said, “It's extremely emotional to hear what people have had to go through — unemployment, because there are no jobs, homelessness, because there are no places to live.”

“Thank God we're there to help these people,” Mr. Lipkin said.

More than 350,000 Jews still live in the Ukraine, 110,000 of them in Kiev. While there is less anti-semitism in that country — Ukraine was the first nation of the former Soviet Union that established diplomatic relations with Israel. According to Mr. Lipkin, the Financial Resource Development Mission is the only group helping in the east. "All the other NGOs have gone."

Ten years ago, not much was going on “jewisly.” But now, there's a good system of service delivery. People whose Judaism might have been lost or forgotten — especially young people — have a thirst for knowledge about Judaism, Israel and Jewish culture around the world.

Young Jewish teens can find programs like BBYO in the United States, that are not just safe places, but places where they can learn for the first time what it means to be Jewish.

Mr. Marlin related the story of a young woman whose father told her that she was going to go to Jewish camp. At 16, it was the first time she knew she had Jewish heritage. Now she heads the camp.

Imagine no shuls and no services, for two generations. This new awakening of Jewish history in Kiev is prompting 15-17-year-olds to research Jewish history and to think about making Aliyah.

The Federation dollars that support the mission help impoverished elderly Jews.

“Wherever there's a Jew in need,” that's where we need to be,” Mr. Lipkin said. There is no social safety net in Ukraine. “If it weren't for us,” Mr. Lipkin and Mr. Marlin said, “many would not be alive. We can help them live in dignity.”

In Israel, the mission visited Ramle, a city of 80,00 Jews, Arabs, Muslims, and Christians which experiences many of the same kinds of problems as low-income communities around the world.

One of the sites the group visited, was Masa, an umbrella organization that coordinates more than 200 gap year, study abroad, post college, and volunteer programs serving young Jewish adults who are visiting Israel — learning to “live like a local.”

They also visited a community court, an alternative court model that aims to reduce recidivism and reintegrate offenders into society. Instead of focusing on punishment, the goal is to examine the underlying issues that contribute to criminal behavior. The program draws up an individual plan to help rehabilitate offenders.

As Mr. Lipkin explained, “If you throw a guy in jail, there's no food for his kids. If you can break the cycle, you contribute to the well-being of the entire community.

“It's a work in progress,” Mr. Lipkin says. “As is the entire state of Israel.”

He added, The mission really brought home what the needs are of Jewish communities around the world — and how the dollars we raise help fill those needs.
This year will prove to be extraordinary. As the world becomes more complex, it was evident there was a need to protect the financial assets of our Jewish Community.

In January, the board of directors approved a plan for the corporate restructure of the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation. At the annual meeting in May, the community voted to change the Federation constitution, confirming the board's actions.

Restructuring

The new structure consists of the Youngstown Area Jewish Foundation, which houses the endowments and other assets, and the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation, which will continue to operate our agencies, JCRC, JCC, and Human Services (Heritage Manor, Levy Gardens and JFS), all of which will be under the control of the Youngstown Area Jewish Community Board, the controlling corporate administrative entity. The changes are substantial, but the plan is to continue to serve the needs of our community as we have for the past 85 years.

Jewish Community Center

The Jewish Community Center continues its significant membership growth. Through the beginning of August, membership is up more than 325 units, in addition to more than 500 new Silver Sneaker members, providing increased revenue to support the Center's operations.

Additionally, the Logan Campus, where the Center is now operating and managing the former Logan Swim and Tennis Club, was a major success providing an outdoor pool experience for all Center members.

Membership swipes at both the JCC and Logan Campus were up over 56 percent in June with virtually the same staff and resources — a testament to how much more efficiently the JCC is carrying out its mission compared to previous years.

Security

Following a professional comprehensive security assessment last year of the Jewish Community Center, Akiva, Heritage Manor, Levy Gardens, and Jewish Family Services, as well as the temples and cemeteries, the Federation recently established a security committee, with Gerald Peskin serving as chair.

With the appointment of Rob Elston in February as the Federation's new security coordinator, we have been working to revise emergency protocols for the Federation and its agencies, collaborating with the synagogues on their security needs as well.

We have applied to the state of Ohio for three separate security grants for Federation agencies and are pleased to announce that we have received a $100,000 grant for the JCC, and have begun a process through the security committee to address security needs Federation-wide.

JCRC

The Jewish Community Relations Council continues to closely monitor and respond to numerous inquiries regarding international issues, growing anti-Semitism globally, nationally, and locally, and concerns for the Jewish community, including our Federation's response to the government of Israel's decision in June to suspend the Kotel resolution and advance controversial legislation on conversion.

The Federation continues to work with the Jewish Federations of North America to address immediate challenges, convene strategic consultations with multiple constituencies, and lay the groundwork for future action involving these issues.

Human Services

The census at Heritage Manor and Levy Gardens has approached almost 100 percent with referrals ongoing for the two of the best facilities in our region. At the end of 2017, Gary Weiss will retire after more than 41 years, and...
Temple El Emeth is pleased to present “From Broadway to Logan Way... The Cemetery Club.” This one-time dinner show performance will take place Wednesday evening, September 6 at Temple El Emeth in Liberty and will feature the cast from the show at the New Castle Playhouse. A deli dinner will begin at 6:00 pm with the show starting at 7:00 pm.

The play tells the story of three Jewish widows, who are longtime friends, and meet monthly for tea before going to visit their husband’s graves. The three meddle so much in one another’s personal lives that they almost create a rift in their friendship.

The comedy, which was written by Ivan Menchell, is being presented through special arrangements with Samuel French. It is being produced by Moulton Ferguson and directed by Paula Ferguson. Tickets are available for purchase at Temple El Emeth in advance and cost $15 per person.

Please use the form below and mail to El Emeth with your payment. Tickets cannot be purchased at the door that evening.

For more information please call the Synagogue office at 330-759-1429.
### Temple El Emeth High Holiday Service Schedule

**Rosh Hashanah-Yom Kippur**

**Saturday, Sept. 16**
- Morning Service 9:30 a.m.
- Evening Service 5:45 p.m.

**Community Wide Selichot at Ohev Tzedek**
- Selichot Service and program. 8 p.m.

**ROSH HASHANAH**

**Erev Rosh Hashanah, Wednesday, Sept. 20**
- Service 6:15 p.m.
- Congregational Dinner 7 p.m.

*Selichot Service and program. 8 p.m.*

**ROSH HASHANAH**

**First Day, Thursday, Sept. 21**
- Morning Service 8:30 a.m.
- Blessing of the Children, at the end of the Torah service
- Children’s Program 10:45 a.m.
- Tashlich at Rabbi Schonberger’s 4:30 p.m.
- Evening Service 5:45 p.m.
- Candle lighting Thursday 8:05 p.m.

**Second Day, Friday, Sept. 22**
- Morning Service 8:30 a.m.
- Children’s Program 10:45 a.m.
- Evening Service 5:45 p.m.
- Candle lighting Friday 7:01 p.m.

**Shabbat Shuvah, Saturday, Sept. 23**
- Morning Service 9:30 a.m.
- Kiddush luncheon following services
- Mincha 7:15 p.m.
- Havdalah 8:01 p.m.

**Cemetery Visits w/Rabbi**

**Sunday Sept. 24**
- Granada 1 -1:30 p.m.
- Coitsville 2:15-2:45 p.m.

**YOM KIPPUR**

**Friday, Sept. 29**
- Kol Nidre Mincha 5:15 p.m.
- Congregational dinner 5:30 p.m.
- Kol Nidre Service 7 p.m.
- Candle lighting Friday 6:46 p.m.

**Saturday, Sept. 30**
- Morning Service 8:30 a.m.
- Torah Service 9:15 a.m.
- Children’s Program 10:45 a.m.
- Israel Bonds, Martyrology, Yizkor 11 a.m.
- Musaf 12 noon
- Mincha 5:30 p.m.
- Neilah 6:30 p.m.
- Maariv/Havdalah 7:30 p.m.
- Shofar Sounds 7:46 p.m.

**SUKKOT**

**Sunday, Oct. 1**
- Temple family sukkah decorating and pizza lunch 10:30 a.m.

**Wednesday, Oct. 4**
- Erev Sukkot Service 5:45 p.m.
- Candle Lighting Wednesday 6:38 p.m.

**Sukkot First Day, Thursday Oct. 5**
- Morning Service 9:30 a.m.
- Evening Service 5:45 p.m.
- Candle Lighting Thursday 7:38 p.m.

**Sukkot Second Day, Friday Oct. 6**
- Morning Service 9:30 a.m.
- Evening Service 5:45 p.m.

**CHOL HAMOED SUKKOT**

**Saturday-Tuesday**
- Evening Services 5:45 p.m.
- Candle lighting Friday 6:38 p.m.

**Saturday, Oct. 7**
- Morning Service 9:30 a.m.
- Rabbi’s Sukkot luncheon following services at Temple
- Evening Service 5:45 p.m.

**Hoshana Rabba — Wednesday Oct. 11**
- Morning Service 8 a.m.
- Evening Service 5:45 p.m.

**SHMINI ATZERET: Thursday Oct. 12**
- _Candle Lighting Wednesday 6:30 p.m._
- Morning Service 9:30 a.m.
- _YIZKOR 11:15 a.m._

**SIMCHAT TORAH**

All adults and children are called to the Torah culminating in the special celebration & services, honoring Chatan Torah Alice Franklin and Chatan Beresheit Randy & Lisa Mirman. There will be music and dancing with Klezmer musicians Steven Greenman and Walt Mahovlich. Refreshments following

**Erev Simchat Torah, Thursday Oct. 12**
- Mincha & Maariv 6:30 p.m.
- Torah Parade 7 p.m.
- _Candle Lighting Thursday 7:30 p.m._

**Friday, Oct. 13**
- Morning Service 9:30 a.m.
- Mincha, Maariv 5:45 p.m.
- _Candle lighting 6:27 p.m._
Summer races by, yet winter lingers

By Mary Lou Finesilver

How quickly the summer months move, and in contrast how slowly winter goes. However, we have no way to stop time, so we just do our best to make each day count.

Of course, we are now looking at September and here come the High Holidays, ready or not. I do enjoy the holidays, and on Rosh Hashanah I look forward not only to the service, but our dinners with wonderful family and friends.

Rosh Hashanah is a happy holiday, and we greet it as such. Yom Kippur is more somber and making us do more thinking of life and living. This is the day we begin with Kol Nidre after sundown and the beautiful prayers that accompany this service.

We also begin for those who are able, the 24 hour fast. I was able to keep the fast until just a couple of years ago. Too many little ailments and too many pills. But it was always such a good feeling to complete the fast. We begin about 7 p.m. on the first night and continue, usually until 8 or 8:30 p.m. the next evening. Then we try and break the fast with something sweet to welcome in the new year.

I realize that most religions have fasting days. It is something I guess that our leaders feel that G-d requires us to fast to see things in a different light. On one hand, it makes us think of those who do not have enough to eat and are always hungry and hopefully makes us also more charitable to those people.

On the other hand we ask forgiveness of G-d for all our transgressions, knowingly or unknowingly. We also ask those we know, friends or family, if we have hurt you in any way, knowingly or unknowingly to please forgive us.

That gives you something to think about. Now that doesn’t mean we can just do or say whatever we want during the year and then expect to be forgiven for those actions. No, I don’t think it works that way. But hopefully, we pause before we do or say something not nice. Our service has a short recess on Yom Kippur in the afternoon, about 2 or 3 p.m.

I can remember going to my parents home and my father, Sam Bonow, would be munching on a chicken leg because he was too hungry to wait until evening. I think most of us are like my Dad; we can’t hold out, but the idea is still there.

Now-a-days, we are able to break our fast at Temple with something sweet, a glass of cold water, and a cup of coffee. Then home for some herring, egg salad, good rye bread and a little dessert.

There used to be a time when we went to wonderful friends to break our fast and it would be a real “groaning board.” We always ate too much, would wake up not feeling quite well because we didn’t know when to stop eating the lox, bagels and cream cheese, kugels, Jello molds, tuna salad, and fabulous desserts.

Oy, so wonderful.

I do miss that, but times are changing and we are just a little smarter with our intake of food. I have good memories of celebrating the holidays with family and friends, beautiful services and the good feeling we have greeted and celebrated another happy, healthy New Year.

Seventy-five guests enjoyed a beautiful outdoor musical Erev Shabbat Klezmer service on Aug. 18, hosted by Terry and Sam Roth, who also provided a lovely dinner after the service. Front row, left to right, Terry Roth, Sam Roth, musicians Lori Cahan-Simon and Walt Mahovlich; and back row, from left, violinist Dmitro Isakov and Rabbi Schonberger.

Sisterhood Programs 2017-18

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 12</td>
<td>Luncheon and speaker: Paula Ferguson will speak about attending the Women's League Convention</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 10</td>
<td>“Pizza in the Hut” and speaker from Youngstown Rescue Mission</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov. 14</td>
<td>Luncheon and cooking demonstration with Dave Scialabba</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec. 12</td>
<td>Chanukah luncheon and bingo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 13, 2018</td>
<td>Open board meeting, no luncheon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 13</td>
<td>Luncheon and women’s social action program</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 10</td>
<td>Donor luncheon and fashion show</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 8</td>
<td>Luncheon, installation and speaker, Fran Hildebrandt, vice president of the Central Great Lakes Region Torah Fund of the Women's League for Conservative Judaism</td>
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</tbody>
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Open board meetings take place at 10:45 am before each luncheon/program.

When more of the programs are finalized we will keep all informed.

Thank you,

Phyllis Perlman and Ellen Weiss
Vice Presidents of Programming

Annual Rodef Sholom and El Emeth Sisterhoods Lunch and Card Party
Tuesday, Oct. 17 at 11:30 a.m.
Rodef Sholom Strouss Hall
Call Rodef Sholom for reservations at 330 744-5001
By Rabbi Joseph P Schonberger  
Temple El Emeth

For every person, a lot of life becomes habit or a matter of reflex. Take, for example, a boxer who sought out a doctor to get relief from insomnia. The doctor wanted to proceed conservatively, so he first prescribed relaxing and then counting to a hundred. When the boxer returned to the doctor, he lamented his difficulty. The boxer applied the doctor’s suggestions. But every time he started counting, he would jump up at the count of nine.

Many of our habits are formed as the daily routines and structures of our lives are established. As with the boxer, we benefit from reevaluating habits to accommodate changes in our lives to serve our best interests.

Consider the expected life passages, the many unpredictable possibilities and the rapid pace of transitions and technologies that affect us in these modern times.

Political elections, Yom HaShoah, Veteran’s Day, Thanksgiving, birthdays, anniversaries, High Holidays and many other events evoke the mixed emotions and thoughts in all of life’s complexities.

These underscore the importance of finding comfort in the constants that provide us with anchors and resources from which we can draw strength. We depend upon family, friends, and faith (God and tradition) as the constants that help us through life. However, people often neglect these indispensible supports in life until we’re down for some kind of 10 count.

The best time to reinforce our relationships with friends, family and God is NOW. As our Sages taught us: if not now, when?

And please include the Synagogue for strengthening relationships with God and making Faith more meaningful.

As the New Year, Yom Kippur, and Sukkot approach, let’s recall that when our Torah matriarch Leah, gave birth to her fourth child she said: “Hapaam odeh et Hashem — this time I will thank the Lord.” She named her son “Judah” from the word “Odeh” meaning “thanks.” According to our Sages, based on this, our people took on the name of Judah (Yehudah in Hebrew) because to be a Jew (Yehudi in Hebrew) means to be thankful.

The advent of the High Holidays have challenged every generation of our People to reinforce the anchors of Torah, Faith and Family and work on overcoming the habitual behaviors and shallow values that compromise our character, purpose, and overall quality of life.

May God help everyone with the life enhancing wellsprings of strength to make the new year 5778, blessed with health, success, and happiness. May all be inscribed in the Lord’s Sacred Book.

Ketivah VaChatimah Tovah / הбит והבוט המיטחו

Signed for children ages 6 through 12. El Emeth’s Erev Yom Kippur Congregational dinner will take place on Friday evening, Sept. 29 at 5:30 p.m. The Kol Nidre service will begin promptly at 7 p.m. Information and reservation forms are in the Synagogue bulletin and have been mailed to members’ homes and are due back in with payment by Sept. 25. A light Break the Fast will take place immediately following the close of services on Saturday evening.

Children’s programming for Yom Kippur will be held Saturday, Sept. 30 at 10:45 a.m. until the close of the Yizkor Service. All children ages 6 through 12 are invited to attend.

Sukkah decorating will take place on Sunday morning, Oct. 1 from 10:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. Children are invited to bring their parents and grandparents to join in the fun. We will make decorations for the sukkah and enjoy a pizza lunch!

Daily Minyans are held at 5:45 p.m. including Shabbat afternoon. Shabbat morning services begin at 9:30 a.m.
New Tel Aviv-Jerusalem high speed rail undergoes first test run

(JNS.org) The highly anticipated Tel Aviv-Jerusalem railway embarked on its maiden voyage Sunday, in the first successful test run of the new rail link connecting the major Israeli cities, Israel’s Channel 2 reported.

The test runs and infrastructure work on the new rail link are expected to last about a week and have shuttered three of Tel Aviv’s main stations, causing significant delays for Israeli commuters who must turn to alternative means of transport amid the upgrades.

Sunday’s trial run was conducted with a 1,200-ton freight train used to test the strength of the recently constructed bridges and rails along the new 37-mile high-speed route.

Using the new rail line, passengers can travel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem in 28 minutes.

“This will ensure Jerusalem’s status and will give people the ability to live in it, to set up businesses, and will completely change the connection between Jerusalem and the rest of the state of Israel,” said Israeli Transportation Minister Yisrael Katz.

The Tel Aviv-Jerusalem rail project began in 2001, and will cost an estimated $1.8 billion by the time it debuts in April 2018.

When fully operational, the rail will reach speeds of 100 miles per hour and offer a significantly faster alternative to the 78-minute Jaffa-Jerusalem route that was built during the Ottoman Empire period.

Shanah Tovah

∞ ∞ ∞

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330-744-4145
First women’s delegation from Ohio to visit Israel for exclusive look into lives of Israeli soldiers

CLEVELAND, Aug. 8 – Women leaders and supporters of Friends of the Israel Defense Forces (FIDF) from across Ohio will travel to Israel in October as part of the first-ever FIDF Ohio Women’s Mission to Israel, getting an exclusive look into the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) and showing their solidarity with and appreciation for Israel’s brave soldiers.

Registration is still open for the mission, Oct. 23-29, which will bring Ohio women together with commanders and soldiers of the IDF.

Mission participants will receive in-depth briefings by senior women military officers, meet with state leaders, hear from Israeli inventors and trailblazers who have changed the face of Israeli society, tour strategic IDF bases to get a behind-the-scenes look into the Israeli military, and experience Israel in an entirely new way.

The group of FIDF leaders will visit FIDF-sponsored well-being and educational facilities on IDF bases and meet beneficiaries of FIDF programs — including Lone Soldiers and students who benefit from the FIDF IMPACT! Scholarship Program, which grants college scholarships to IDF combat veterans of modest means; tour pivotal military installations, such as a special operation unit stationed on Israel’s border with Gaza; and hear first-hand from business and technology leaders at Israel’s famous SodaStream company and at an international defense electronics contractor.

“This one-of-its-kind mission will allow our supporters to witness and experience the impact of their life-changing contributions to the well-being of Israel’s soldiers, and it’s a wonderful chance for us to personally thank the IDF soldiers for their service.”

“This first-ever Ohio women’s mission follows the success of our four previous men’s missions,” said FIDF Ohio Director Lane Schlessel. “For one incredible week, we will bring Ohio FIDF women supporters to Israel to visit the IDF’s brave and devoted soldiers and tell them, in one unified voice, how much we appreciate and support them. We’ll have unprecedented access to the daily lives of the women and men of the IDF, visiting them on their bases across Israel and hearing their stories firsthand.”

For more information about the mission, including the full itinerary, or to apply to participate, please visit: http://www.fidf.org/document.doc?id=650.

About Friends of the Israel Defense Forces:

FIDF was established in 1981 by a group of Holocaust survivors as a 501(C) (3) not-for-profit organization with the mission of offering educational, cultural, recreational, and social programs and facilities that provide hope, purpose, and life-changing support for the soldiers who protect Israel and Jews worldwide. Today, FIDF has more than 150,000 loyal supporters, and 20 chapters throughout the United States and Panama. FIDF proudly supports IDF soldiers, families of fallen soldiers, and wounded veterans through a variety of innovative programs that 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.
Levy Gardens celebrates 20 years

They broke ground in 1996, leaders of the Jewish Community who were committed to a continuity of care for the aging seniors of the region — men and women who were not read for Heritage Manor, but still needed help for some of the activities of daily living, such as transportation, and other kinds of monitoring.

“The process was lengthy,” says Gary Weiss, the executive director of Heritage, Levy Gardens, and JFS who retires this years after 41 years of leadership. “We visited many communities like Buffalo and Cleveland, as well as local places,” he said. “We wanted to see their programs and what they offered their residents.” They concluded that all amenities and services should be contained within each resident’s apartment — with a common dining room, and rooms for other activities.

Earlier, the Levy Gardens population was more independent, but now that seniors are coming in at an older stage

(Continued on p. 23.)

Morris Bosch, the first resident of Levy Gardens, lights Hanukkah candles. He served as cantor for Children of Israel.

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Whether the emergency is a terrorist attack or a heart attack, the paramedics of Magen David Adom, Israel’s emergency medical response and blood-banking agency, save lives in Israel every day. As we enter the new year hoping for peace, we must continue to prepare for routine and terror-related emergencies.

If you’re looking to make a difference for Israel and secure the nation’s health and safety for the coming year, there’s no better way than through a gift to MDA. Please give today. Shanah Tovah.
Early term babies at greater risk for diabetes and obesity-linked diseases

BEER-SHEVA, Israel — Aug. 7— Early term deliveries impact babies’ long-term health with increased risk of diabetes and obesity-related illnesses as well as a shortened life span, according to a new study by Ben-Gurion University of the Negev researchers.

“Early term” is defined as delivery between 37 and 39 weeks. Pregnancy is considered at full term when gestation has lasted between 37 and 42 weeks. Babies born between 39 and 41 weeks of gestation have better outcomes than those born either before or afterward.

In the study, published in the American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology, the researchers investigated hospitalizations of children up to age 18 to determine the impact that early-term versus full-term gestation had on pediatric health and hospitalizations.

A population-based cohort analysis was conducted of 54,073 early-term deliveries and 171,000 full-term deliveries.

“We found that hospitalizations up to the age of 18 involving endocrine and metabolic morbidity were found to be more common in the early-term group as compared with the full-term group, especially at ages five and older,” says Prof. Eyal Sheiner, M.D., Ph.D., a vice dean of the BGU Faculty of Health Sciences and head of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Soroka University Medical Center. What’s more, “Obesity was significantly more frequent among the early term.”

The researchers also discovered that children older than five exhibited significantly higher rates of type 1 diabetes mellitus when born early term.

“Pregnancies ending at early term were more likely to be complicated by hypertensive disorders and maternal diabetes (both gestational and pre-gestational). Deliveries were more often cesarean, and mean birth weight was significantly smaller,” Dr. Sheiner says. “Babies delivered at early term were also more likely to be low birth weight — less than 5.5 pounds (2.5 kilograms).”

These diseases may increase the likelihood of other associated maladies with a detrimental long-term impact on one’s health and well-being, increased lifetime healthcare expenditures and a shorter life span, the researchers conclude.

Other researchers who participated in the study include Dr. Tamar Weinstock, Dr. Daniela Landau and Ruslan Sergienko of BGU’s School of Public Health. Dr. Dorit Paz and Dr. Asnat Walfisch are affiliated with the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Soroka University Medical Center.

American Associates, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev plays a vital role in sustaining David Ben-Gurion’s vision: creating a world-class institution of education and research in the Israeli desert, nurturing the Negev community and sharing the University’s expertise locally and around the globe.

As Ben-Gurion University of the Negev looks ahead to turning 50 in 2020, AABGU imagines a future that goes beyond the walls of academia. It is a future where BGU invents a new world and inspires a vision for a stronger Israel and its next generation of leaders. Together with supporters, AABGU will help the University foster excellence in teaching, research and outreach to the communities of the Negev for the next 50 years and beyond.

Visit vision.aabgu.org to learn more. AABGU is headquartered in Manhattan and has nine regional offices throughout the United States. For more information, visit www.aabgu.org.
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Peter Geffen (continued from page 2)

a wreath. In the midst of the daytime darkness that stunned us, we were simultaneously reminded of the power and the beauty of light. We cannot allow darkness to overtake us. We share a DNA that is between 99.0 and 99.9% exactly the same for every human being on this earth for all of time. Our cultural and religious sources: biblical, philosophical, literary and even scientific make clear that whatever we perceive as different – gender, skin color, hair, build, everything that makes us feel so diverse, is never more than 1% of our actual makeup.

The Bible tells us “love your neighbor as yourself.” But what does that mean? Is it a platitude, is it naïve? Or is it a scientific insight that offers a road to a future of the best that the human being is capable of? The president, aided or guided by the Bannons and Gorkas surrounding him has made clear that we are in an ultimate battle of contending ideas.

Peter A. Geffen is the founder and executive director of KIVUNIM and the founder of The Abraham Joshua Heschel School, in New York City. He has devoted his career in Jewish education to elevating Jewish identities informed and driven by social justice, creating educational models in which knowledge of Jewish communities around the world propels individual and collective growth and community building for next generations.

Formerly, he was director of the Israel Experience Program for the CRB Foundation and one of the most respected Israel education specialists in the world. He has been a social activist since serving as a civil rights worker for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in 1965-66.

Mr. Geffen was the recipient of the Covenant Award in 2012, the highest recognition given to a Jewish educator.

His wife, Susie Kessler, is the sister of Sandy, Mickey, and Ami Kessler, whose parents of blessed memory were Mollie and Gerald Kessler.

Patricia Kelvin (continued from page 2)

- Trawniki
- Majdanek
- Auschwitz
- Bergen-Belsen
- Braunschweig
- Beendorf
- Altona

All of these were concentration camps and forced labor camps where my teenage cousin endured nearly six years of her life until she was rescued by American troops and the Swedish Red Cross.

Never heard of some of these places? Neither had I until I recently read the CIA’s confidential report on German concentration camps, which was only unclassified in 2007.

In that terrifying document, you’ll read that concentration camps were established in every nation the Germans invaded, including 78 in France, more than 50 in Greece, 30 camps in the Netherlands, 29 in Norway, 192 in Poland, the hundreds in Germany, and too many more.

We all know of the yellow star Jews like my cousin were forced to wear. But the CIA report lists others were also identified by color badges: red for political criminals (those who opposed the Nazi reich); homosexuals, pink; purple, (nuns, priests, ministers) and pacifists who opposed the Nazis for religious reasons. Black badges were for the so-called anti-socials — the “scum,” “inferior” homeless people, migrant workers, beggars, vagrants, and large families from the lower social strata.

Look at that list again and see those whom this president want to marginalize: recognize the political enemies — even in his own party; the religious criminals — like Muslims, other than right-wing Christians, and atheists; gay and transgender people — witness his most recent executive order; and in pardoning an Arizona sheriff, he shows his contempt for those he regards as “inferior.”

Supposedly, when the president takes the oath of office, he solemnly “swears that I will faithfully execute the Office of President of the United States, and will to the best of my ability, preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States”.

In the eight grade, I was required to memorize the Preamble of the Constitution:

We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

Nearly 60 years later, it has stayed with me. Some things you never forget.

Note: Patricia Kelvin was born in London, England, in 1945, as the bombs continued to fall. She became a U.S. citizen in 1965. When she teared up while listening to the national anthem before a Dodger game, she decided it was time for her to be officially, an American
When Alan Samuels, a B'nai B'rith member from Hermitage, thought about ways to bring together members of the Jewish communities in western Pennsylvania and the greater Youngstown area, he thought, “Why not invite B'nai B'rith members and others to a summertime picnic.”

With a go-ahead from Neil Schor, president of the Aaron Grossman Lodge #339, and working with Bruce Sherman, an invitation went out “to meet our members and make new friends” in Buhl Park.

According to Mr. Samuels, more than 70 people turned out to enjoy the camaraderie, the free hamburgers, hot dogs, and drinks, and the many side dishes and desserts contributed by event (continued on page 45)
Armed with soap, Jewish teen targets Third World disease, poverty

By Abigail Pickus, JTA

Sydney Kamen has always been concerned with helping others.

In 2004, when genocide was raging in the Darfur region of Sudan, Ms. Kamen’s mother announced that instead of Hanukkah gifts that year, Ms. Kamen and her sister should research and select a charity to support. At Jewish religious school on Sundays, she went on service trips to soup kitchens, and through Georgetown Day School, he spent time at a women’s shelter in downtown Washington, D.C.

Her first experience with aid work in a developing country was when she was 15 and fought to participate in a 10-week relief mission to Haiti for dentists and oral surgeons.

She was hardly deterred by the fact that she wasn’t a dentist – or a grown-up, for that matter. In Haiti, Ms. Kamen traveled around the country in blistering heat helping set up clinics offering oral care. Adults with severe abscesses came, bringing children whose teeth were damaged from eating flour mixed with soil because they could not afford to buy food.

“That kind of exposure was eye opening to me,” Ms. Kamen recalled.

Nevertheless, she was surprised to learn on a sophomore year service trip to Thailand how something as basic as soap and water is a luxury for many – one they can ill afford to forego.

“Over 1.8 million children die every year from diarrhea, but this is something that can be prevented with hand-washing,” Ms. Kamen said. “Hand-washing with soap can cut Ebola in half.”

Then Ms. Kamen had an idea: What if luxury hotels donated their unused soap?

By the time she returned to Thailand and Myanmar the following summer, Ms. Kamen had come up with a fully developed idea for a project that would not just deliver soap to those who needed it, but also help local women spread the message about the importance of soap in maintaining health – and pay them in the process.

Ms. Kamen spent her time in Asia laying the groundwork. She arranged for the soap’s delivery, trained women and girls to recycle and remake the soap, and learn on a sophomore year service trip to Thailand how something as basic as soap and water is a luxury for many – one they can ill afford to forego.

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Children of Israel, the only Orthodox congregation between Pittsburgh and Cleveland, welcomes you to pray, study, learn with Rabbi Rindenow, a great speaker and psychologist. A leading ethicist, Rabbi Rindenow has participated in more than 15 conferences on Jewish Medical Ethics.

The Rebbetzin, Mindy, also plans to join us on Rosh Hashannah. We will have additional guests to help make the services a meaningful and spirited way of bringing in the New Year.

Children of Israel also has, by Skype, maintained a class in Gomorrah and recently started an “Ask the Rabbi” series on alternating Sunday mornings with NJ. Additionally, Rabbi Elizar Admon of Pittsburgh attends on the alternating Sunday when we have a discussion “from the tisch” during the Sunday morning meal.

A Happy and Healthy New Year to all.

Erev Rosh HaShanah
Wednesday, Sept 20
Candles- latest time
Mincha- 6 p.m.
Meal 6:45 p.m.

Rosh HaShanah First Day
Thursday, Sept 21
Shacharis 9 a.m.
Sermon/Shofar 11:20 a.m.

Rosh HaShanah Second Day
Friday, Sept. 22
Shacharis 9 a.m.
Sermon/Shofar 11 a.m.
Final Shofar 1:30 p.m.
Meals 1:45 p.m.
Mincha/-Ma’ariv 6 p.m.
Meal 7 p.m.

Shabbos
Friday, Sept 23
Shacharis 9:30 a.m.
Kiddish and meal 12:15 p.m.
Mincha — to be announced

Saturday, Sept 30
Shacharis 9 a.m.
Sermon 11 a.m.
Yizkor 12 noon
Break 3 p.m.
Mincha 5:50 p.m.
N’ilah 6:50 p.m.
Shofar/Ma’ariv 7:55 p.m.

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JCRC High Holiday food drive

The Jewish Community Relations Council’s 26th annual High Holiday Food Drive to benefit the Second Harvest Food Bank of the Mahoning Valley will be held from Monday, Sept. 18 through Monday, Oct. 16.

All Jewish families are urged to bring one or more grocery bags full of non-perishable foods and toiletry items to area synagogues, Akiva Academy, or the JCC any of the drop-off sites listed above. A detailed list of needed items and drop-off sites was included in a flyer sent to all households.

According to Bonnie Deutsch Burdman, director of community relations/government affairs for the Jewish Federation, the Jewish High Holy Days provide the perfect opportunity for members of the Jewish community to think about the challenges many in the Valley face and to devote attention to transforming the region for the better.

Ms. Burdman said, “This is our opportunity to reflect upon the past year, with an eye toward making meaningful changes as we contemplate our futures. Our reflection may be inwardly focused as individuals, but also as a greater community where we can engage in tikkun olam, and tzedakah, Jewish obligations to repair the world and help those in need,” She said.

The Second Harvest Food Bank is a private charity serving as a redistribution center for donated food and related items to more than 100 pantries, meal sites, and institutions in the tri-county area.

Since its inception in 1983, the food bank has distributed millions of pounds of donated food, and believes that no one should go hungry, and that the local community is one where good food is accessible to all. More than 30,000 people are fed monthly through the agencies supported by the food bank and its partners.

For further information, contact Bonnie Deutsch Burdman at the JCRC at (330) 746-3251 or at 330-770-8702 (mobile).

YSU Annual D.C. bus trip to National Holocaust Museum

The annual bus trip sponsored by the YSU Center for Judaic and Holocaust Studies and the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum is open to area seniors in addition to all YSU students. The cost for the day-long trip, set for Sunday, Nov. 5, is only $10 and includes round trip transportation and snacks.

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Through Ohio’s Department of Aging’s Lifelong Learning Program, YSU has established the College for the Over Sixty program. Anyone who has been a resident of the state for a minimum of a year and is at least 60 years old can qualify for free YSU classes (no credit will be conferred) or for YSU supplemental programs at the same low cost as provided for students.

Dr. Jacob Labendz, the newly appointed YSU Clayman Professor for Judaic and Holocaust studies and Federation Holocaust Specialist, Jesse McClain, will be staffing the trip.

Now in its 14th year, the Holocaust Museum bus trip is one of the most successful ongoing YSU Holocaust programs. As in previous years, it is anticipated that two busloads of 110 students and community members will attend this November’s journey.

For further details or to inquire about registration, contact the YSU History Department at 330-941-3452.
How the Jews nearly wiped out Tay-Sachs disease

By Ira Stoll

Parents of children born with Tay-Sachs disease talk about “three deaths.” There is the moment when parents first learn that their child has been diagnosed with the fatal disease. Then there is the moment when the child’s condition has deteriorated so badly — blind, paralyzed, non-responsive — that he or she has to be hospitalized. Then there’s the moment, usually by age 5, when the child finally dies.

There used to be an entire hospital unit — 16 or 17 beds at Kingsbrook Jewish Medical Center in Brooklyn — devoted to taking care of these children. It was often full, with a waiting list that admitted new patients only when someone else’s child had died.

But by the late 1990s that unit was totally empty, and it eventually shut down. Its closure was a visible symbol of one of the most dramatic Jewish success stories of the past 50 years: the near-eradication of a deadly genetic disease.

Since the ’70s, the incidence of Tay-Sachs has fallen by more than 90 percent among Jews, thanks to a combination of scientific advances and volunteer community activism that brought screening for the disease into synagogues, Jewish community centers and, eventually, routine medical care.

Until 1969, when doctors discovered the enzyme that made testing possible to determine whether parents were carriers of Tay-Sachs, 50 to 60 affected Jewish children were born each year in the United States and Canada. After mass screenings began in 1971, the numbers declined to two to five Jewish births a year, said Karen Zeiger, whose first child died of Tay-Sachs.

“It had decreased significantly,” said Ms. Zeiger, who until her retirement in 2000 was the State of California’s Tay-Sachs prevention coordinator. Between 1976 and 1989, there wasn’t a single Jewish Tay-Sachs birth in the entire state, she said.

The first mass screening was held on a rainy Sunday afternoon in May 1971 at Congregation Beth El in Bethesda, Maryland. The site was chosen in part for its proximity to Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore. One of the two doctors who discovered the missing hexosaminidase A enzyme, John O’Brien, was visiting a lab there, and another Johns Hopkins doctor, Michael Kaback, had recently treated two Jewish couples with Tay-Sachs children, including Zeiger’s. Dr. Zeiger’s husband, Bob, was also a doctor at Johns Hopkins.

The screenings used blood tests to check for the missing enzyme that identified a parent as a Tay-Sachs carrier. “With the help of 40 trained lay volunteers and 15 physicians, more than 1,500 people volunteered for testing and were processed through the ‘system’ in about 5 hours,” Dr. Kaback later recalled in an article in the journal Genetics in Medicine. “For me, it was like having written a symphony and hearing it for the first time—and it went beautifully, without glitches.”

A machine to process the tests cost $15,000. “We had bazaars, cake sales, sold stockings, and that’s how we raised money for the machine,” Ms. Zeiger said.

Before screening, couples in which both parents were Tay-Sachs carriers “almost always stopped having children after they had one child with Tay-Sachs, for fear of having another,” Ruth Schwartz Cowan wrote it in her book Heredity and Hope: The Case for Genetic Screening.

But with screening, Tay-Sachs could be detected before birth, and “carrier couples felt encouraged to have children,” she wrote.

Dr. Kaback’s work helped enable thousands of parents who were Tay-Sachs carriers to have other, healthy children.

“What he did for Tay-Sachs and how he helped so many families was amazing,” Zeiger said. “People named their (Continued on p. 29)
Some children of Youngstown, OH recently wrapped up a five-week program based on the Israel Tennis Centers model where they learned how to play tennis, and more importantly developed long-lasting life skills.

Founded in 1976, the Israel Tennis Centers is one of the largest social service organizations for children in Israel, serving over 20,000 Israeli children every year. The ITC’s 14 centers stretch from Kiryat Shmona in the North to Beer Sheva in the South. Many of these centers are in underprivileged neighborhoods, providing disadvantaged children with a safe, structured and nurturing environment.

The ITC offers uniquely designed programs to meet the specific needs of its children, assisting youth at risk, those with special needs such as Down Syndrome and autism, bringing together Israeli Jews, Arabs, Bedouins and Druze to play and learn, and training Israeli children to excel as tennis players.

ITC board member Sam Shapiro said it was a shame that the at-risk children in America couldn’t benefit from the fantastic opportunity that the ITC provides the children of Israel. A light bulb went off, and Amy Hendricks, ITC board member and global resource development chair, carried the idea forward.

The Youngstown program is based on the ITC model of using tennis as a vehicle with which to teach the basic values of success and happiness in life to at-risk children, and brought it to America,” said Ms. Hendricks. Some of the life values tennis teaches are teamwork and perseverance, hard work, patience, and integrity. We’ve carried that from the tennis court into real life.”

Every day for five weeks this summer the children of Youngstown Community School came to the Jewish Community Center for an afternoon filled with tennis, crafts, and swim lessons all paid for by a grant from the United States Tennis Association that Ms. Hendricks applied for with the help of United Way.

The Youngstown Area Jewish Federation supplied much of the manpower, knowledge and funding for this program along with their facility.

(Continued on page 63)
Ohio Nonviolence Week observed Oct. 1 – Oct. 7

The first week of October in the state of Ohio is dedicated to Nonviolence. Ohio Nonviolence Week will be offering a program based on Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King’s six principles of Nonviolence. For an entire outline of the week visit www.OhioNonviolenceWeek.org

Local observance

In the Youngstown area, the week will feature a parade, rally, and the presentation of the Simeon Booker Award for Courage, which this year will be awarded to National honoree, Ken E. Nwadike Jr. and Youngstown’s own Terry Vicars. Mr. Vicars is a tireless advocate for the less fortunate, working with homeless peoples, single mothers, and those in poverty.

At the awards dinner and presentation, three prominent national figures will participate in a panel “Intolerance in Today’s America. The speakers will discuss Antisemitism, Islamophobia, and Racism.”

Anita Gray, regional director of the Anti-Defamation League in Cleveland, will discuss Antisemitism. Previously, she was a congressional liaison to Congresswoman Marcia L. Fudge, Cleveland director for AIPAC, the Jewish National Fund, and campaign director of the successful 2010 Cuyahoga County Health and Human Services renewal levy.

In addition, she co-founded Ishmael & Isaac, a coexistence organization between Cleveland’s Jewish and Arab communities. In that capacity, she was national executive director and traveled twice to Israel, the West Bank, and Jordan with Cleveland Jews and Arabs. She has received numerous awards, most recently, from the YWCA as a Woman of Distinction.

Wajahat Ali will speak on Islamaphobia in America today. He is a journalist, writer, lawyer, playwright, TV host and consultant for the U.S. State Department. Beginning in early 2017, as creative director of Affins Labs, Mr. Ali launched a global startup incubator network aimed at identifying and fostering “emerging entrepreneurial taken from around the world that understands what makes the global Islamic economy special.”

Previously, Mr. Ali helped launch the Al Jazeera America network. As a reporter, he has focused his stories on communities and individuals often marginalized or under-reported in mainstream media. He has also worked and been honored by Secretary Clinton as a “Generation Change Leader.

Ken E. Nwadike Jr., the third panelist, a peace activist, inspirational speaker, and video journalist popularly known as the Free Hugs Guy. Mr. Nwadike is the founder of the Free Hugs Project, which gained popularity as made major news headlines for his peacekeeping efforts and de-escalation of violence during protests, riots, and political rallies.

He was featured in Google’s 2016 Year in Search video as a highlight among some of the year’s defining moments and he has made many appearances on news programs, including CNN, USA Today, Good Morning Britain, and BBC News. Mr. Nwadike is also one of the two recipients of the 2017 Simeon Booker Award for Courage.

Nonviolence Parade and Rally

The Nonviolence Parade and Rally are open to all participants standing for Nonviolence. Individuals as groups are able to register and walk in the parade, and are encouraged to remain for Rally following the parade. The late Patricia Cunningham III will be recognized for her work in nonviolence and social justice.

According to the Vindicator, the events taking place during Nonviolence week will include more than 10 speakers and 2,000 people.

In addition to the parade, there will

(Continued on p. 63)
of life, we’ve needed to adapt,” explains Sara Miller, the facility’s director.

If you ask Carol Polansky, who has lived at Levy Gardens for 17 years, three months, two days, and one hour — as of an Aug. 9 interview — she says she would have no place to go were it not for the assisted living facility which celebrates 20 years of service this month.

At the age of 91, she says, she’s living a longer and happier life. She is still a frequent shopper, though she complains that she needs another closet.

Mrs. Polansky was born in Sharon, but moved here when she was four. Her grandparents were so orthodox, she explains, that they had to hire someone to flush the toilets on Shabbat.

But those days are long gone as she finds a far different life at Levy Gardens.

Mrs. Polansky — and other residents — give a lot of the credit for their enjoyment to Activities Director Ronna Marlin, who has been enhancing the fun for 19 years.

“I’ve loved learning the history of Youngstown from the residents,” Ms. Marlin says.

“When the people want to go and do, it makes it a great place for everyone,” she says.

Age doesn’t make a difference, Ms. Marlin says.

She relates the story of resident Mamie Smith who at 100 was still independent. She used the treadmill and enjoyed contemporary films — without worrying about the language.

Mrs. Smith said, “When you go out to a restaurant and get a cup of coffee for 35 cents, you always leave a $1 tip. Somebody is working hard to serve you and talk to you. You never want people to think that seniors are cheap.”

When Ms. Marlin takes residents to restaurants, she reminds them of Mrs. Smith’s wise words.

After 20 years, the principal goal of Levy Gardens remains the same: to put life in the lives of the residents.
Jewish teen brings soap and hope (continued from p. 17)

Now 20 and a junior at Dartmouth, Kamen speaks with the experience of a seasoned agent of social change.

“We view soap as a cost-effective and urgently needed public health intervention in our partner communities, and not as a novelty for international distribution and consumption,” Kamen said. “The biggest thing for me is sustainability and self-empowerment.”

Kamen is also a U.S. Army ROTC cadet. She has received widespread recognition for her work, including the President’s Volunteer Service Award. Kamen said she was thrilled to learn that she’d been recognized by the Diller Teen Tikkun Olam Awards.

“It’s a lot to try to juggle running this organization full-time while being in school,” she said. “It’s very easy to get frustrated and struggle with the balance. I’m still a 20-year-old girl who wants to go for a hike. This kind of validation is encouraging and reminds me what a wonderful thing it is to be recognized and supported.”

Ultimately, Ms. Kamen said, SOAP offers a straightforward solution to a problem that, though simple, has devastating consequences.

“It’s not a special vaccine or surgeons to do cleft palate repairs,” she said. “It’s something as simple as a small glob of antibacterial glycerin.”

Note: This article was sponsored by and produced in partnership with the Helen Diller Family Foundation, which sponsors the Diller Teen Tikkun Olam Awards, annually awarding $36,000 to Jewish teens demonstrating exceptional leadership in repairing the world. Nominations/applications for 2018 are now open. This article was produced by JTA’s native content team.)
New Year’s Greeting: Jewish Community Relations Council

Suzyn Schwebel Epstein
President

The national and international Jewish communities have faced many challenges throughout 5777, a painful reminder of which took place last month in Charlottesville, VA.

The acts of domestic terrorism that occurred have no place in this country. Neither does the climate of anti-Semitism and racism that led to the tragedy. White supremacists, the KKK, neo-Nazis, and the alt-right are dangerous, destructive, and divisive.

The JCRC condemned these senseless acts of violence and the climate in which they were born. We will continue to stand locally and nationally with those who are united against hatred and discrimination of any kind.

Sadly, this phenomenon of rising anti-Semitism and hatred is not new. Global anti-Semitism is rising at an alarming rate, putting Jews at new risks in their home cities and countries where they once were safe. And the BDS (boycotts, divestment, and sanctions) movement to delegitimize Israel and to promote anti-Semitism continues to grow internationally and domestically, particularly on college campuses.

Yet through such challenging times, the JCRC has continued to be a leader in programming and in forging inter-faith and intergroup alliances to promote Israel advocacy, and to combat anti-Semitic BDS on the progressive left as well as racism and anti-Semitism from the far right.

This past year, the JCRC joined with pro-Israel advocates around the state to successfully lobby for the passage of strong anti-BDS legislation in Columbus. The bipartisan bill, which passed overwhelmingly in the state legislature, prevents any entity which supports discriminatory anti-Israel boycotts from entering into contracts with the State of Ohio.

Additionally, as we have read of more missiles in the hands of Hezbollah, more tunnels dug by terrorists in Gaza, more destabilizing activities by Iran, and more attacks by and inspired by ISIS and Al-Qaida, the JCRC has successfully pushed for a strong U.S.-Israel relationship at the national and international levels.

One of the most impactful JCRC initiatives this year was its third economic development mission to Israel. Focusing on additive manufacturing with YSU and the Youngstown Business Incubator, the trip resulted in meaningful connections between Israeli entities and the two local institutions.

Among the many tangible results, YBI is actively working with Israeli 3-D printing companies to encourage them to relocate to the region, and YSU will co-host a major international additive manufacturing conference in Israel at the Technion.

The JCRC, once again this year, provided meaningful Yom Hashoah commemoration and education activities. Jesse McClain continued his work in the general community, reaching thousands of students with educational programming on the Holocaust, and is now developing new curricular materials to further enhance our capacity to teach about the Shoah. Also, efforts are underway to expand the JCC library into a Holocaust resource center.

During the highly polarized national election season, the JCRC engaged in various efforts in support of the Jewish perspective on many federal issues, and kept a close watch on events unfolding in Columbus and in Harrisburg to ensure that our regional Jewish community’s interests are properly served. The JCRC leadership meets regularly with public officials locally, in Washington, and in Columbus, and has hosted several community events with Members of Congress and other office holders; to develop and maintain close ties to the individuals and organizations in control of scarce, but needed public dollars which flow to our Jewish agencies. One [Omit-particular] successful initiative was the JCRC’s part in securing state funding to enhance our community’s security needs.

Once again, the JCRC made significant progress in promoting interfaith and multicultural awareness. The JCRC ‘kicked off’ a new African-American/Jewish collaborative, was instrumental in the planning of the annual women’s interfaith tea, and the annual Non-violence Week commemoration, and worked on numerous programs with other faith communities.

The JCRC continued its tradition of sponsoring our local annual High Holiday Food Drive for the Second Harvest Food Bank, and emerged as a leader of Tikkun Olam initiatives with a new, active social action committee. For the first time in more than two decades, the JCRC proudly represented Israel and the Jewish community at the Canfield Fair.

As we consider all these pressing issues, we pray for the continued safety and security of our community and for Israel to achieve peace. We will never let the world forget Am Yisrael Chai and that we will fight for our survival. On behalf of the JCRC, best wishes to each and every member of the Jewish community for a happy and healthy new year.

Youngstown Area Jewish Federation High Holidays message (continued from page 5)

we are pleased to announce the appointment of Cristal Vincent as the new CEO of the Human Services Department, overseeing the operations at Heritage Manor, Levy Gardens and Jewish Family Services.

Jewish Family Services continues to offer counseling, guardianships, “Meals on Wheels,” “Our Gang” and other services to the community. In an effort to fully serve the needs of JFS clients, and with Alvin Weisberg retiring in February 2018, after 35 years, Ken Bielecki has been hired to oversee the Agency, along with our most recent hire Jane Trambley, who will oversee the guardianship program.

**Partnership2Gether**

This past June, our Federation hosted its first ever Partnership2Gether Summit, with more than 80 people participating. Delegates from 13 communities attended the three-day conference, along with participants from Israel and Budapest. P2G has become the Jewish Agency for Israel’s and the Jewish Federation of North America’s most successful and effective model for creating meaningful relationships between global Jewish communities and communities in Israel.

**Endowment**

The Federation continues to seek new endowment funds to supplement its programs and services. Some of our Endowment funds enhance our Annual Campaign. Grants from endowment funds allow us to bring extraordinary programming to the community including speakers for the Inaugural Event, a variety of cultural events, and programming sponsored by our Shlichim. Endowments through Jewish Family Services also support senior outreach services, programming for developmentally disabled adults, counselling, guardianships and Meals on Wheels.

Other endowments support Jewish education, nursing scholarships at Heritage Manor, and organizations/initiatives in Israel, including our Partnership region in Akko, Israel.

**Annual Campaign**

Our Annual Campaign makes it possible for the Federation to provide for meeting the needs here, and throughout the world. In 2016, the Campaign raised approximately $1.3 million. Your generosity is at the center of our Jewish community – a community of engaged people, supportive organizations and respected institutions, which provides a welcoming atmosphere to those of us who call the regional Jewish community our home.

L’Shana Tovah. May the New Year be filled with peace, prosperity and good health.
JERUSALEM, Aug. 8 – The International Fellowship of Christians and Jews (The Fellowship) today renewed its promise to help bring Venezuela’s Jews to Israel, as economic and political conditions in the Latin American nation rapidly deteriorate.

“For Venezuela’s Jews, the future seems bleak, with the unstable economic and political situation worsening daily. People are even afraid to go out of their homes because of rampant kidnappings,” said The Fellowship’s founder and president, Rabbi Yechiel Eckstein. “We pledge to do everything in our power to help the Jews of Venezuela come to Israel and build new lives in the Jewish State.”

Rabbi Eckstein’s reaffirmation of help comes after weeks of intensifying, deadly protests against the Maduro government, and a reported failed military coup over the weekend. The growing instability over many months has led to the breakdown of civic order and the collapse of the economy, producing widespread shortages of basic goods and medicine.

The Fellowship is the only organization bringing Venezuela’s Jews, estimated at 10,000 members, to Israel. In the past 18 months The Fellowship has rescued more than 138 Venezuelan Jews, and expects to bring an additional 100 more to Israel by the end of this year, as part of its continuing global campaign to bring distressed Jews from 26 countries to Israel.

The Venezuelan-Jewish community has not escaped the impact of the country’s volatile conditions. Some 700 Jewish families in the capital of Caracas receive communal charitable assistance, while The Fellowship has been supplying requested medicine to the Jewish community in Venezuela as well.

The Fellowship’s latest flights to Israel in late July carried 26 Venezuelan Jews, and Rabbi Eckstein said many of the new arrivals were so hungry they wanted immediately to visit McDonald’s at Ben-Gurion Airport.

The Fellowship pays for each family’s transportation to Israel, and provides each adult with $800 and each child with $400, on top of the Israeli government’s support for all new immigrants. The Fellowship also provides a variety of other support services for new immigrants immediately upon their arrival, including in-home visits to review their needs and provide aid for such needs as food, appliances, furniture, day-care, vocational training, and even dental care, to help them start their new lives.

Rabbi Eckstein today also lauded Israel’s Ministry of Immigration and Absorption for heeding The Fellowship’s requests to increase aid for these new immigrants, most of who are poor and arrive with little money and few possessions. The ministry has increased its aid every six months to Venezuelan-Jewish immigrants by an additional $4,170 per family and $1,668 per single person. With this additional aid, the benefits now amount to approximately $9,700 for couples; $8,200 for single-parent families; $5,100 for singles; $3,000 for children up to age four; $2,200 for children ages four to 18; and $2,600 for children ages 18-21. For families with more than five members, each also receives $1,400 extra. The increased government aid plus The Fellowship’s support means that a Venezuelan family of four will now receive about 50 percent more assistance to get started in Israel.

“We are profoundly grateful to Minister of Aliyah and Absorption Sofa Landver for agreeing to increase this critical support for these new olim (immigrants),” said Eckstein. “This additional aid will go a long way toward helping the Jews of Venezuela as they begin new lives in Israel and incentivize others to come on aliyah (immigrate) as well.”

Classic cooking of South American Jews

By Sandy Leibowitz

(Continued on page 40)
In Nicaragua, 114 people convert to Judaism

By Josefin Dolsten

(JTA) — Over the course of just a few days, the tiny Jewish community in Nicaragua more than doubled when 114 people converted to Judaism.

Last month, community members answered questions before a beit din, or religious court, of three Orthodox rabbis from Israel and the United States and immersed in a newly built mikvah in Managua, the Central American country's capital. Male converts underwent circumcisions or symbolic circumcisions if already circumcised.

On July 23, following the conversions conducted at the Managua home of a community leader, 22 couples wed according to Jewish tradition in a Managua social hall rented for the occasion. Kulanu, a New York-based nonprofit group that supports communities around the world seeking to learn about Judaism, had facilitated the conversions.

“There was a great amount of trepidation in their faces and anxiousness because it was so important to them, and when they emerged from the mikvah the glow on their faces was amazing,” said beit din member Rabbi Mark Kunis, who was ordained at Yeshiva University’s Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary and works at the Shaarai Shamayim synagogue in Atlanta. “It’s inspiring; the excitement that it engendered was phenomenal.”

At least half the candidates claimed Jewish ancestry, and most had been studying Judaism for at least five years — with some pursuing Judaism almost their entire lives, Rabbi Kunis told JTA. All the candidates except one family were accepted for conversion, and one of the beit din rabbis served as a Spanish translator, since most of the candidates could not communicate in English, he said.

“I feel at home,” Even Centeno, 21, told JTA of having officially become Jewish. “This was for me like a dream.”

Sr. Centeno is among the converts who trace their ancestry to Sephardic Jews forced to convert to Christianity during the Inquisition.

Sr. Centeno, who converted along with his parents and sister, said he was aware of his family’s Jewish ancestry since he was a young child and started learning about Judaism at the age of 11.

The conversions bring a significant influx of Jews to Nicaragua. Jews have been living there since the 18th century, but the community numbered only about 50 in 2012 and was comprised mostly of American retirees, according to the Nicaraguan Israelite Congregation. That year, Kulanu helped facilitate the conversions of 14 people, most of whom claimed ancestry to Jewish men who had married non-Jewish Nicaraguan women. Another 14 converted in 2015, but the recent group is the largest to date.

Though the Nicaraguans converted together, they follow two different leaders, said Bonita Sussman, vice president of Kulanu.

The majority, including Centeno, are inspired by Hasidism and follow a local leader named Akiva Simja Fernandez, who converted to Judaism in 2012 with the help of Kulanu. Sr. Fernandez follows some Jewish customs that he learned from the Chabad-Lubavitch movement, which does not have a presence in Managua but caters to Israeli tourists in the beach town of San Juan del Sur.

Sr. Fernandez and many of his followers — some of whom claim Jewish ancestry — wear black velvet kippahs and wide-brimmed black hats, and sing and dance to Hasidic music during celebrations.

A second group with 38 members of one extended family heeds Moshe Omar Cohen-Henriquez, who traces his ancestry to Jews from Curacao who were forced to convert to Christianity. The group adheres to Sephardi customs and has access to a mikvah, or ritual pool, adjacent to Sr. Henriquez’s home. The men wear big crocheted kippahs.

Prior to deciding to become Jewish, Ms. Sussman said, the converts identified with Christianity or messianism, a movement that infuses Christian belief with some elements of Jewish ritual practice.

“This isn’t the first mass conversion facilitated by Kulanu. Last year, the group brought rabbis to Madagascar to convert 121 people, building a Jewish community where none had existed.”

Sussman noted how the members of the Nicaraguan community relate to their Judaism.

“These two are unique in that one is a Sephardic and descendants of anousim and the other tends towards Hasidic kabbalistic practice,” she said.

“Anousim” is a Hebrew term for Jews who were forced to abandon Judaism against their will.

Though the Madagascar community also follows Hasidic traditions, the Nicaragua group that follows Simja is distinctive in that it follows customs learned from Chabad, Sussman added. (Chabad has no official ties to the converts or Kulanu.)

Ms. Sussman sees the conversions as part of a larger phenomenon.

“This is a new trend in Jewish history,” she said. “In the last 100 years we have seen the Holocaust, the destruction of all Jewish communities in Arab lands and the rebuilding of a Jewish homeland. We are now entering an era of rebuilding the Jewish people.

“In general, while there may be some hot spots of interest in Judaism in the Western countries, for the most part serious interest in religion is a thing of the past. Today, however, the interest lies in Africa, South America and India. As Jews we must be part of this exciting new development.”

Kulanu is planning to send equipment to the Nicaraguans to perform kosher ritual slaughter.

“The big need is for kosher meat. We’re planning to get them shechita knives,” Ms. Sussman said. “They haven’t eaten meat, some of them for years. They eat vegetarian and fish.”

The dietary restrictions didn’t seem to be a problem for Centeno, who was getting ready to cook for Shabbat, when he would be hosting 70 community members.
Holiday services and activities

Selichot
Saturday, Sept. 16, 8 p.m.

Ohev Tzedek will host the community Selichot service on The program will begin with a showing of the film Denial. Services will immediately follow the film. The event is free and open to the public.

Light refreshments will be served. R.S.V.P. to the Ohev Tzedek office 330 758-2321 or office@ohevtzedek.com by Sept. 7.

Sukkah building
Sunday, Sept. 24, 10 a.m.

Join us at Ohev Tzedek for the erecting of the OT sukkah. We will meet again the following Sunday, Oct. 1, at 10 a.m. to decorate our sukkah for the holiday. All are welcome.

Light refreshments will be served. R.S.V.P. to the Ohev Tzedek office 330 758-2321 or office@ohevtzedek.com by Sept. 26 if you plan to help decorate.

Services

Morning Minyan services are held each Thursday at 7:30 a.m.

Shabbat services are held every Saturday at 9:45 a.m. Dario Hunter leads a Kiddush luncheon in the sukkah, weather permitting.

High Holidays

Rosh Hashanah
Erev Rosh Hashanah Service
Wednesday, Sept. 20, 7:30 p.m.

Rosh Hashanah First Day Service
Thursday, Sept. 21, 9 a.m.

Junior Congregation will be led by Leigh Zircher at 11 R.S.V.P. to the Ohev Tzedek office 330 758-2321 or office@ohevtzedek.com by Sept. 14.

Tashlich
Immediately following services.

Rosh Hashanah Second Day Service
Friday, Sept. 22, 9 a.m.

Junior Congregation will be led by Leigh Zircher at 11 a.m. R.S.V.P. to the Ohev Tzedek office 330 758-2321 or office@ohevtzedek.com by Sept. 14.

Yom Kippur
Kol Nidre
Thursday, Sept. 29, 7 p.m.

Yom Kippur
Sept. 30, 9:30 a.m.

Yizkor and the sermon around 12 noon.

Junior Congregation will begin at 11 a.m. RSVP to the Ohev Tzedek office [330.758.2321 or office@ohevtzedek.com] by 9/14.

Break from 2:30-5:30 p.m. with study session topics to be announced) and then reconvene for Mincha with a reading of Jonah and discussion. Neilah will begin at 6:30 pm with Havdalah and the shofar around 7:45 pm. We will break fast immediately following the blowing of the shofar.

Sukkot
Thursday, Oct. 5, 9:45 a.m.

Services will be followed by a kid-dush luncheon in the sukkah, weather permitting.

Shemini Atzeret
Thursday, Oct. 12 9:45 a.m

Yizkor will be recited around 11 am.

Erev Simchat Torah
Thursday, Oct. 12, 6:30 p.m.

Join the festivities as we celebrate the never-ending cycle of Torah with special aliyyot, singing, dancing, and, of course, hot dogs! Weather permitting, we will take our parade outdoors. All are welcome. R.S.V.P. to the Ohev Tzedek office 330 758-2321 or office@ohevtzedek.com by Oct. 9.

Adult Education – Fall 2017

Some classes may require a text to be purchased in addition to the registration fee. Unless otherwise noted, all classes will be held at Ohev Tzedek. All of the classes are open to the entire Jewish community.

Mussar — The study of Mussar is a Jewish ethical, educational practice that studies personal character traits (middot), such as humility, patience, anger, and jealousy, and their relationship to living a meaningful life. Its goal is to align individual actions and intentions with Jewish values. Mussar class is reconvening under the leadership of Rabbi Dario and will continue to meet on Mondays at 1:30 pm. While this class has been ongoing for some time, our study is at a point where we will revisit each of the middot; this is an excellent time to join the class if you have been wondering but worried about joining mid-class.

Birkhot Hashachar — Using Rabbi Lawrence Hoffman’s excellent volumes in the My People’s Prayer Book series as a guide, we will explore these traditional morning prayers to discuss tefilla, Jewish prayer, as a whole, and how Jews have ever understood our ongoing, evolving relationship with G-d. This class, beginning August 30, will meet on Wednesdays at 2:30 p.m. (Registration fee of $25 includes book.)
Tay-Sachs screening (continued from p. 20)

kids after him.”

The screenings were transformative, and the campaign to get Jews tested for Tay-Sachs took off. This was the days before Facebook or email, so activists and organizers spread the word about screenings through newspaper and magazine articles, posters at synagogues, and items in Jewish organizational newsletters. Volunteers and medical professionals spoke on college campuses and sent promotional prescription pads to rabbis, obstetricians, and gynecologists. Doctors and activists enlisted rabbis and community leaders to encourage couples to be tested before getting married.

Another early mass screening event was held at a school in Waltham, Massachusetts, guided by Edwin Kolodny, a professor at New York University medical school. The first mass screening in the Philadelphia area was on Nov. 12, 1972, at the Germantown Jewish Center, and drew 800 people, according to a Yale senior thesis by David Gerber, “Genetics for the Community: The Organized Response To Tay-Sachs Disease, 1955-1995.”

Nearly half a century later, the Tay-Sachs screening effort remains a model for mobilizing a community against genetic disease. Parent activists, scientists and doctors are trying to emulate that model with other diseases and other populations.

“You can’t be complacent, because now there are 200 diseases you can test for,” said Kevin Romer, president of the Matthew Forbes Romer Foundation and a past president of the National Tay-Sachs and Allied Diseases Association. The foundation is named for Romer’s son Matthew, who died of Tay-Sachs in 1996.

Romer and others involved with this issue stress the importance of screening interfaith couples, too. Non-Jews may also benefit from pre-conception screening for Tay-Sachs and other diseases. Some research indicates, for example, that Louisiana Cajuns, French Canadians and individuals with Irish lineage may also have an elevated incidence of Tay-Sachs.

Scientific progress means that Jews can now be screened for over 200 diseases with an at-home, mail-in test offered by JScreen. The four-year-old nonprofit affiliated with Emory University’s Department of Human Genetics has screened thousands of people. The test includes diseases common in those with Ashkenazi, Sephardi, and Mizrahi backgrounds as well as general population diseases, making it relevant for Jewish couples and interfaith couples.

“Carrier screening gives people an opportunity to plan ahead for the health of their future families. We are taking lessons learned from earlier screening initiatives and bringing the benefits of screening to a new generation,” said Karen Arnowitz Grinzaid, executive director of JScreen. It was a path pioneered by the Tay-Sachs screening that began in 1971.

In Cowan’s book, she mentions a chart prepared by Dr. Kaback reporting on 30 years of screening: 1.3 million people screened, 48,000 carriers detected, 1,350 carrier couples detected, 3,146 pregnancies monitored.

“Kaback and his colleagues could well have stopped there,” she wrote. “But they did not. There is one more figure, the one that matters most and that goes the furthest in explaining why Ashkenazi Jews accept carrier screening... after monitoring with pre-natal diagnosis, 2,466 ‘unaffected offspring’ were born” to parents who were both Tay-Sachs carriers.

Editor’s note: This article was sponsored by and produced in partnership with JScreen, whose goal of making genetic screening as simple, accessible, and affordable as possible has helped couples across the country have healthy babies. To access testing 24/7, request a kit at JScreen.org or gift a JScreen test as a wedding present. This article was produced by JTA’s native content team.
Ethiopian Rosh Hashanah blends unique customs with yearning for Jerusalem

By Adam Abrams/JNS.org

Despite relative isolation from their Jewish brethren around the world for millennia, Ethiopian Jews have coveted the same dream of celebrating Rosh Hashanah “next year in Jerusalem.”

Though unique, the Jewish New Year festivities in Ethiopia bear many similarities to the holiday’s observance in the broader diaspora.

Limor Malessa and five of her siblings were born and raised in a small Ethiopian village near the Jewish community of Gondar. She left the village at age 13 and traveled to Ethiopia’s capital of Addis Ababa, along with her parents and five siblings, in anticipation of emigrating to Israel—the “promised land” that Ethiopian Jews longed to return to for thousands of years, unaware that the holy temple in Jerusalem had long since been destroyed. (Gaps in access to modern technology and their distance from other Jewish communities meant many Ethiopian Jews, up until about 20 years ago, lacked some basic knowledge about major episodes in Jewish history.)

In 1991, at age 15, the aliyah for Malessa and her family officially began when Israel’s Mossad intelligence agency privately smuggled the family out of Ethiopia’s capital city to the Jewish homeland by way of Italy.

The family arrived in Israel just a month before the Mossad conducted a massive clandestine airlift operation, dubbed “Operation Solomon,” which saw some 14,000 Ethiopian Jews secretly airlifted out of Ethiopia aboard 35 non-stop flights to Israel in 36 hours. Malessa has now lived in Israel for more than 30 years, building a family of eight children in the city of Ashdod and becoming thoroughly integrated into Israeli society.

Due to the small size of Malessa’s village in comparison to other Jewish Ethiopian townships, not many “kessim”—elder religious leaders with knowledge of oral Jewish law and the equivalent of rabbis—resided in her home village. This “would make my childhood memories of Rosh Hashanah less vivid than of those who grew up with many kessim in their villages,” Malessa told JNS.org in Ethiopian-accented Hebrew.

New immigrants from Ethiopia arrive at the Ibim Absorption Center in Jerusalem in October 2012, as part of aliyah and absorption efforts facilitated and funded by the International Fellowship of Christians and Jews. Credit: Moshe Shai.

New immigrants from Ethiopia arrive at the Ibim Absorption Center in Jerusalem in October 2012, as part of aliyah and absorption efforts facilitated and funded by the International Fellowship of Christians and Jews. Credit: Moshe Shai.

The Ethiopian villagers were entirely dependent on the verbally disseminated wisdom of the elders, who were the only people in the village capable of reading Jewish texts written in the ancient Ge’ez dialect.

“The kessim would instruct everyone in the villages on how to prepare for the holiday….Villages that had more of the religious leaders would have a much deeper understanding of the holiday and its laws,” Malessa said.

In Amharic, which is rooted in the Ge’ez dialect and is the official language of Ethiopia, Rosh Hashanah is called “Brenha Serkan,” which essentially means “the rising of the dawn,” said Malessa. In keeping with the meaning of holiday’s name, the kessim “would rise before dawn on the holy day, to begin the first prayer service of the day before sunrise,” she said.

In Ethiopia, Rosh Hashanah was—and still is—observed during the course of one day, in contrast to the two days observed in the rest of the Jewish diaspora and in Israel. The Ethiopian Rosh Hashanah is comprised of three prayer services: before dawn, in the afternoon and in the evening. There are four prayer services in the broader Jewish world for Rosh Hashanah, and none begin before sunrise.

“The holiday also has another name, ‘Zikir,’ which is similar to the Hebrew word for remember, ‘zachor,’” Malessa said.

Similar to the custom in other diaspora Jewish communities, “everyone in the village wears new clean white clothes” for Zikir, she said, while it is “also customary for affluent people in the village to have very large feasts and invite others in the village to join in the festivities.” The festivities are meant to remind people of the day’s holiness, and to “make sure that during the holiday not a single Jew is left without food and enjoyment,” according to Malessa.

“People serve lamb—the most expensive meat available—and have special meals to observe the mitzvah of feeding their Jewish brothers and sisters,” she said.

Malessa’s mother, Esther Lakau, who lives in the Israeli coastal city of Ashkelon, said she “remembers hearing the kessim sound the shofar on the holiday.”

“Everyone in the village prepared the food for the holiday a day in advance,” Lakau told JNS.org.

“The kessim would read from the holy scripts in Ge’ez and tell the history of the Jewish people,” she said. “They would speak of Abraham, Yitzhak and Yaakov, our great patriarchs and matriarchs, and the lessons we could learn from them in the present….Most importantly, the kessim would emphasize our long-held aspiration to celebrate Rosh Hashanah ‘next year in Jerusalem.’”

Photo/Miriam Alster/Flash90

Ethiopian Jews are greeted by family members as they arrive at Israel’s Ben Gurion Airport, as part of an aliyah flight arranged by The Jewish Agency for Israel and sponsored by the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem, in June 2017.

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Morgan Stanley
Best Wishes for the New Year
of the young lady who was hit by a vehicle,” he said, according to Department of Defense News. “I can absolutely and unambiguously tell you there is no place — no place — for racism and bigotry in the U.S. military or in the United States as a whole.”

Dunford spoke after chiefs of the Army, the Air Force, the Navy, the Marines and the National Guard posted similar statements on social media.

“They were speaking directly to the force and to the American people: to the force to make clear that that kind of racism and bigotry is not going to stand inside the force,” Dunford said. “And to the American people, to remind them of the values for which we stand in the U.S. military, which are reflective of the values of the United States.”

**Cash family denounces neo-Nazis**

(JTA) — Johnny Cash’s children took to social media to denounce a neo-Nazi who wore a T-shirt with the singer’s name on it during the Charlottesville far-right rally last weekend.

In a Facebook post Wednesday, Rosanne, Kathy, Cindy, Tara and John Carter Cash pointed out that their late father had received humanitarian awards from, among others organizations, the Jewish National Fund and B’nai B’rith International.

“We were alerted to a video of a young man in Charlottesville, a self-proclaimed neo-Nazi, spewing hatred and bile. He was wearing a t-shirt emblazoned with the name of Johnny Cash, our father. We were sickened by the association,” the Cashes wrote.

“[Cash] championed the rights of Native Americans, protested the war in Vietnam, was a voice for the poor, the struggling and the disenfranchised, and an advocate for the rights of prisoners,” the statement continued. “He would be horrified at even a casual use of his name or image for an idea or a cause founded in persecution and hatred. The white supremacists and neo-Nazis who marched in Charlottesville are poison in our society, and an insult to every American hero who wore a uniform to fight the Nazis in WWII, including men in the extended Cash family were among those who served with honor.”
Movie & Lunch Bunch: Hidden Figures

Three brilliant African-American women at NASA -- Katherine Johnson (Taraji P. Henson), Dorothy Vaughan (Octavia Spencer) and Mary Jackson (Janelle Monáe) -- serve as the brains behind one of the greatest operations in history: the launch of astronaut John Glenn (Glen Powell) into orbit, a stunning achievement that restored the nation’s confidence, turned around the Space Race and galvanized the world. A light lunch will be served.

Date: Tuesday, Sept. 26
Time: 12-2:30 p.m.
Location: Multi-Purpose Room

$8/Member | $11/Non Member
RSVP at jccyoungstown.org or with the JCC Bursar at 330 746-3250 ext.195 by Sept. 29

JCCJourneys

Waitress

Inspired by Adrienne Shelly’s beloved film, “Waitress” tells the story of Jenna — a waitress and expert pie maker. Jenna dreams of a way out of her small town and loveless marriage. A baking contest in a nearby county and the town’s new doctor may offer her a chance at a fresh start, while her fellow waitresses offer their own recipes for happiness. But Jenna must summon the strength and courage to rebuild her own life. This irresistible new hit features original music and lyrics by 5-time Grammy® nominee Sara Bareilles. “It’s an empowering musical of the highest order!” raves the Chicago Tribune. Dinner on your own. Space is limited.

Date: Sunday, Oct. 22
Location: Cleveland, OH
Leave JCC: 11 a.m.
Showtime: 1 p.m. (run time is 2 1/2 hours)
Return to the JCC: 7:30 p.m.
Cost: $65/Member | $85/Non Member
RSVP at jccyoungstown.org or with the JCC Bursar at 330 746-3250 ext.195 by Oct. 6

The Color Purple

This Tony-winning musical arrives fresh from Broadway for this acclaimed production’s first US tour. This iconic musical follows Celie, a young woman living in early 1900s America and is based on the book by Alice Walker. Both heart-warming and heart-wrenching, you’ll find yourself moved by her tale as much as you are by the show’s incredible music. The 2015 Broadway production won two Tony Awards including the coveted Best Revival of a Musical. Dinner on your own. Space is limited.

Price includes cost of ticket and transportation.

Date: Sunday, Nov. 19
Location: Pittsburgh, PA
Leave JCC: 11 a.m.
Showtime: 1 p.m. (Run time is 2 hours, 25 minutes)
Return: 7:30 p.m.
Cost: $71/Member | $95/Non Member
RSVP at jccyoungstown.org or with the JCC Bursar at 330 746-3250 ext.195 by Sept. 29

Senior Outreach (67+)

If you or someone you know is over 67 years old and could use a friendly visit, a helping hand, or just information about our Jewish community, please contact our Senior Outreach Coordinator, Darlene Muller: For more information contact at 330 942-6270 or dmuller@jewishyoungstown.org

To find out more contact any member you know or City Director, Emily Blau 330 746-3250 ext. 152 or eblau@jewishyoungstown.org.
Local Chapters:
Dodi Li BBG #69 Girls, grades 8 – 12
Sigmund Nisenson AZA (Siggy) #169 Boys, grades 8 – 12

Performing Arts

Liz Rubino Studios

For more information on the studio offerings contact Liz Rubino at 330 509-0891 or coaching@lizrubino.com

Private Sessions

Liz Rubino offers private sessions in voice, acting, drama therapy, junior voice, and junior acting. All sessions are 55 minutes long with the exception of junior lessons which are 30 minutes long.

Triple Threat Troupe (TTT)

A two-semester training (school year) and performance troupe for ages 9-24 (special acceptance may be made via audition for a younger but experienced and mature student) in voice, drama and dance. Semester sessions are held on Sundays, (not every), and the troupe works to devise a year-end performance together. Each semester, TTT students will receive four private voice lessons (combo of in-person and online), two dance workshops, one acting and vocal workshop, one audition workshop (with fall headshots), one theatre specialty workshop (such as stage combat, improvisation, etc), and they will be eligible to take part in any performance opportunities including national performances (Walt Disney World, NYC Cabaret Performance, etc.)

This season we will be heading back to New York City with the students to perform at one of the city’s top cabaret venues! This experience is rare, and not easy to come by. All students will perform a solo as well as group numbers. This performance trip is not limited to LRS students. However, those who are not LRS students will be required to take four private voice lessons before going. New Faces Of Cabaret rehearsals are not rigorous in terms of time but students are expected to work on their own at home when not in group rehearsals. This performance is not limited to certain ages, however will require an audition. The performance trip will take place in late April or early May 2018, and the performance commitment must be made by Oct. 1

JCC School of Dance

Eriane Raib-Pitchkin is a well-trained and experienced local dance teacher collaborating with the JCC as the Artistic Director of the new School of Dance. This program teaches children the technique, artistry and discipline of dance in a cheerful and positive learning environment. Children develop a variety of transferable
School vacation care
Before and after school care
School Age Care
Gym classes/fitness program
Swim lessons
Thematic learning
Focus on emerging literacy
Social and emotional development

Preschool — ages 3 & 4
Preschool readiness program
Circle time (music and literacy fun)
Exploratory learning

Toddler Care — 12 – 36 months
Individualized care

Infant Care - 6 weeks – 12 months

Hours: Monday - Friday 6:45 a.m. -6:00 p.m.

For more information on the Early Learning Center, contact Jennifer Bracken, Coordinator of Early Learning, 330 746-3250 ext. 125 or jbracken@jewishyoungstown.org

School of Music
The Jewish Community Center of Youngstown
School of Music. This exciting program features piano, violin, guitar, percussion, and voice lessons housed at the JCC! Visit jccyoungstown.org to learn more. To register for JCC School of Music lessons contact the JCC Bursar's Office: 330 746-3250 Ext. 195.

School of Dance Pricing

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School of Dance Pricing

Get fit fast with Personal Training at the JCC!

Personal Training Benefits

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

Lunch and Learn: Telephone Scams and Frauds
Security expert Rob Elston will discuss best practices for preventing telephone scams and frauds, as well as tips for protecting yourself when using the ATM machine. This event is free and open to the public. A light lunch will be served.

Date: Friday, September 15
Time: 12 -1 p.m.
Location: JCC Multi Purpose Room

R.S.V.P. required to Shelia Cornell at 330 746-3250 Ext. 182 or Scornell@jewishyoungstown.org

Fitness

<table>
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Group Exercise

New Yoga Classes

Yoga
Practice and explore the extraordinary benefits of yoga as you are guided through the complete Level I Amrit method of yoga. Asana sequence, specific postures, breathing exercises, and deep relaxation can balance this energetic center creating a sense of well-being and connection.

Date: Tues. & Thurs.
Time: 8-8:55 a.m.

Gentle Chair Yoga
A gentle approach to yoga for those who can’t work on the floor. Learn the basic principles of proper alignment using classical poses to lengthen and strengthen the body, improve flexibility and reduce stress.

Date: Tues. & Thurs.
Time: 9-9:55 a.m.

Vinyasa Yoga
A simple Asana routine including sun salutations, forward bends, balancing poses, hip openers, twists and more.

Date: Tues. & Thurs.
Time: 6:30-7:45 p.m.

Amrit Yoga/Sadhana Practice
Practice and explore the extraordinary benefits of yoga as you are guided through the complete Level I Amrit method of yoga Asana sequence, specific postures, breathing exercises and deep relaxation can balance this energetic center creating a sense of well-being and connection.

Date: Wednesdays
Time: 5:30 - 6:25 a.m.

Yoga Nidra (Guided Meditation)
Learn how to enter the alpha brainwave state to activate the healing and regenerative wisdom of your body. A blanket is required.

Date: Sundays
Time: 8 – 8:55 a.m.

Aquatics

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

Aquatic Classes

You & Me Baby
In this monthly class, parents assist their children in the water. Children will learn how to float and improve their water skills. Recommended ages: 6-36 months. Swim pants or swim diapers are required.

Date: Saturdays, 9:30-10 a.m.
$30/Member | $40/Non Member

(Continued on p. 35)
Case Western Reserve University’s Siegal Lifelong Learning Program announces its fall lineup for the second annual “Tribe Talk: New Jewish Conversations.”

The monthly talk-show-style program is an innovative, informative, and engaging conversation on trending news from the Jewish world. This year’s series begins with featured guest Ruchi Koval, co-founder and associate director of the Jewish Family Experience, who will join hosts Brian Amkraut, executive director of the Siegal Lifelong Learning Program, and Alanna Cooper, director of Jewish Lifelong Learning.

Among other compelling topics, Ms. Koval, Mr. Amkraut and Ms. Cooper will discuss and analyze the ongoing controversy surrounding prayer at the Kotel in Jerusalem.

The program will be held at Siegal Lifelong Learning’s facility in the Landmark Centre, 25700 Science Park Dr., Suite 100, Beachwood, on Monday, Sept. 18 at 7 p.m. Refreshments will be served.

The Kotel controversy came to a head in June, when the Israeli government reneged on its commitment to create an official egalitarian prayer section at the Western Wall. Some have criticized this move as a vote against women, as further alienating American Jews from Israel and as deepening the rift between Orthodox and other Jewish movements.

“There are accusations and resentment on both sides about the roles of women in prayer,” Koval said. “I appreciate the opportunity to discuss these ideas in a measured and respectful way.”

Amkraut said the topic is especially timely and carries broad significance.

“The unprecedented response from American Jewish leaders, including potentially withholding funding, demonstrates the emotional impact the decisions of Israeli politicians can have on Jews living thousands of miles away,” he said.

Cooper added, “The news is unfolding at a rapid pace. By the time mid-September rolls around, the Kotel controversy may fade into the background a bit as other issues heat up. Tribe Talk is nimble. Our goal is to address the pressing topics of the day. Audience members can expect a timely conversation whenever they join us.”

Other Tribe Talk guests this fall include Dan Moulthrop, CEO of the City Club of Cleveland, and Kevin Adelstein, president, publisher and CEO of Cleveland Jewish Publication Co./Cleveland Jewish News.

Tribe Talk: New Jewish Conversations is free and open to the community. Advance registration is recommended. For information, visit www.case.edu/lifelonglearning/tribe-talk or call 216 368 2091.

Tribe Talk is a program of Case Western Reserve University’s Siegal Lifelong Learning Program, in partnership with the Cleveland Jewish News and the Cleveland Jewish News Foundation.

Siegal Lifelong Learning offers innovative and engaging programming for adults of all ages to pursue their love of learning.

Classes, workshops and lectures provide opportunities for participants to interact with internationally renowned scholars who share their cutting-edge research, and to engage in lively conversation about current topics of interest. For more information, visit http://case.edu/lifelonglearning/ or call 216 368-2090.

Spain to create Ladino academy in Israel to help preserve the language

(JTA) — More than five centuries after King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella expelled the Jews of Spain, the language of the exiles is to be formally honored by the country’s leading linguistic authority.

Spain’s leading linguistic authority will create an academy in Israel dedicated to the study and preservation of the Ladino language. The institution will be the 24th branch of the Spanish Royal Academy, the Guardian reported last week.

Dario Villanueva, director of the Spanish Royal Academy, said Ladino is “an extraordinarily important cultural and historical phenomenon” that deserved its own academy.

Nine Ladino specialists have been appointed to help start the institution’s work. The academy’s 23 other branches specialize in other Spanish dialects and are located across Latin America and other countries, such as the Philippines.

Ladino, sometimes referred to as Judeo-Spanish, is an endangered species in the language world. Some estimates say fewer than 100,000 people currently know how to speak it.

“The idea isn’t to absorb Ladino into modern Spanish, it’s the opposite: to preserve it,” Villanueva said.
Learn-to-Swim ages 3 & up
Children will be placed into the appropriate level by the swim instructors.
Level 1: Children are taught basic swimming skills such as floating, blowing bubbles and the correct body positions for freestyle and backstroke.
Level 2: Children are taught the arm motions for freestyle and backstroke as well as the correct breathing patterns for both strokes.
Level 3: Children are taught the basics of breaststroke, butterfly, and diving as well as refining freestyle and backstroke techniques.
Level 4/5: Children will continue to refine the four swim strokes and diving.
Cost: Free/Member | $5/Non Member
Campus Pool
Location: JCC Main Campus
Time: 4-6 p.m.
Dive-In Movie - Kung Fu Panda 3
Date: Friday, Sept. 15
Time: 4-6 p.m.
Location: JCC Main Campus Pool
Cost: Free/Member | $5/Non Member
Register online at jccyoungstown.org
A.M. Energizer
Grab an Aqua Jogger belt and get ready for a great workout. This class incorporates a series of exercises and routines in the deep end of the pool that have zero impact on the hips, knees, ankles, or back.
Date: Tues. & Thurs.
Time: 7:45-8:30 a.m.
Aqua Strength
Aqua strength and conditioning is a total body routine filled with high intensity cardio for ultimate fat burning, and aquatic weight training for sculpting and body reshaping.
Date: Tues. & Thurs.
Time: 5:30-6:30 a.m.

Chazzanat (Cantors): The History of Jewish Music in the Synagogue
Join us for an educational lecture from Israeli conductor Gaddiel Dombrower. Dombrower will analyze the historical significance of the art of the Chazzans (Jewish Cantors), who lead prayers in synagogue. Gaddiel Dombrower recently received his Master’s in Music from the Cleveland Institute of Music. Gaddiel holds multiple bachelor’s degrees in music from the Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance, specializing in clarinet and in orchestral conducting. This event is free and open to the public. A light dinner will be served.
Date: Thursday, Sept. 14
Time: 6-8 p.m.
Location: JCC Multi-Purpose Room
R.S.V.P. is required by Sept. 7 to jccyoungstown.org or to Gon Erez at 330 746-3250 Ext.159.

Human Rights Under the Palestinian Authority: A Palestinian Perspective
Join us as Jerusalem-based human rights pioneer and political analyst, Bassem Eid, discusses human rights violations under the Palestinian Authority and the effect of the BDS movement on the Palestinian people.
About the Speaker:
Bassem was born in the Jordanian-occupied Old City in East Jerusalem and spent 33 years in the Shuafat refugee camp. He rose to prominence as a senior field researcher for the human rights organization, B’tselem. His initial focus was on human rights violations committed by Israeli armed forces, but has broadened his research to include human rights violations committed by the Palestinian Authority, and the Palestinian armed forces on their own people. This event is free and open to the public. A light dinner will be served.
Date: Monday, Oct. 16
Time: 6-8 p.m.
Location: JCC Multi-Purpose Room
R.S.V.P. is required by Oct. 9 at jccyoungstown.org or to Gon Erez at 330 746-3250 Ext.159.
Two new natural gas fields will provide energy for Israel by 2020

JNS — Israel’s Ministry of Energy recently presented its official plan for the development of the Karish (“shark”) and Tanin (“crocodile”) natural gas fields in the Jewish state’s Mediterranean economic waters.

Karish and Tanin are located adjacent to Israel’s larger Tamar and Leviathan offshore gas fields. Under the plan, the Karish field will be developed first, and the Tanin field will be developed if demand for natural gas is high enough in the Israeli market.

Israeli Energy Minister Yuval Steinitz lauded the proposal for demonstrating Israel’s ability “to keep to the schedule” of developing its natural energy resources. Mr. Steinitz also said that after the new gas fields become operative, “competition will increase and prices…will fall.”

The fields are thought to contain some 1.8 trillion cubic feet of gas, which would flow into Israel by 2020.

Last February, developers of the Leviathan natural gas field approved a $3.75 billion investment in the first phase of the largest energy project in Israel’s history.

The gas from Leviathan will be transported through two underwater pipes 120 km in length to a processing and production platform situated 10 km offshore.

Israel currently relies entirely on the Tamar field and a single pipeline for its natural gas needs. Security experts have highlighted Israel’s dependence on the single natural gas field and pipeline as a potential strategic threat in the event of a conflict.

Editor’s note: When I returned from Israel last February, many of my Jewish friends were surprised at my having learned about Israel’s natural gas program. This story updates what I found out.

Gal Gadot’s ‘Wonder Woman’ biggest non-sequel superhero movie ever

(JTA) — “Wonder Woman,” starring the Israeli actress Gal Gadot, has become the biggest non-sequel superhero movie ever, beating the 2002 version of “Spider-Man.”

The movie earned $404.1 million in the United States as of Monday, and has passed $800 million worldwide, with the film opening in Japan on Aug. 25, Forbes reported.

Forbes noted that if the film can take in another $5 million at the box office — and it is still being shown at more than 800 movie theaters in the United States — it will pass “The Hunger Games,” “Captain America: Civil War” and “Iron Man 3” in earnings.

Gadot tweeted a thank you to her fans on Monday.

“Wow! Just heard the news! Thank u to everyone who has shown their support to WW in theaters!” she wrote. “What an amazing ride this has been! #grateful”

The film is set to be released in the United States on DVD and Blu-ray on Sept. 19.

Warner Bros. has already begun preparing for the sequel, “Wonder Woman 2,” which is slated for release in December 2019.

Israel’s pride and joy towards Gadot was displayed recently when Tel Aviv’s Azrieli Towers — the country’s tallest skyscrapers — lit up with the phrases in Hebrew “We are proud of you, Gal Gadot” and “Our Wonder Woman.”

Jewish Film Festival

Rock in the Red Zone

Thursday, August 31, 2017 | 7:00 P.M.
Encore Cinema, Niles
Documentary
Runtime: 92 min | Country: Israel/USA | Release Date: 2014

Once in a Lifetime

Thursday, September 7, 2017 | 7:00 P.M.
Movies 8, Boardman
Narrative
Runtime: 105 min | Country: France | Release Date: 2014

In Search of Israeli Cuisine

Sunday, September 10, 2017 | 7:00 P.M.
Authentic Israeli Dinner with Jeffrey Chrystal Catering | 5:00 P.M.
DeYor Performing Arts Center
Documentary
Runtime: 97 min, Country: USA, Release Date: 2015

TICKET PRICING:
Students: $5 | Pre-Order: $7 | At the Door: $10 | Season Pass: $40
Dinner prior to In Search of Israeli Cuisine (includes movie ticket): $27
To purchase tickets, visit www.jccyoungstown.org/yajff or call (330) 746-3250 x 195

Best Wishes for a Happy & Healthy New Year!

The Butler Institute of American Art

100 Years of American Printmaking
Exhibition on View: Sept. 17 - Nov. 19, 2017

Featuring rare works & classic images from:
- Edward Hopper
- Alex Katz
- Ben Shahn
- Raphael Soyer
- William Gropper

524 Wick Ave, Youngstown, OH 330.743.1107 ButlerArt.com
From Rodef Sholom’s President

By Arthur Greenbaum, M.D.

This is a sad time for my family. As I returned home from a hospital meeting this evening, my wife appeared before me in tears just after being notified by Heritage Manor that my mother had died just short of her 101st birthday.

I made some hurried arrangements for burial next to my father Robert and brother Charles at their Temple cemetery north of Boston.

Joshua, Toni, and I then traveled to the Home to spend a final evening with her, a rather surrealistic experience, as I loudly recalled her origins in Malden, MA., a daughter to Charles and Ann Bronstein.

I remember her as my young mother, with long raven black hair, sweetly beautiful face, and knock-out figure, singing with an operatic voice, “Nobody loves me, everybody hates me. Going to the garden to eat worms.” In death her complexion was perfect, the hair now grey, the face still beautiful with the slightest suggestion of a smile. I talked endlessly. Maybe she could still hear me.

Somehow, the experience brought me to think about our adopted Jewish community here in Youngstown and the surrounding towns, sadly, a community diminishing in response to economic loss of steel and related industry, with congregations shrinking and religious attachment in decline.

In an idealistic moment, I also thought about all of the cultural amenities available here — academia, theater, music, a technologic think tank, good restaurants, and beautiful temples. Because the town is still alive, it is up to us to rekindle the economy and salvage our community and beautiful heritage.

I thought about my experience on the college rowing crew. Regardless of the muscle applied by individual oarsmen, the boat floundered if they all didn’t pull together.

You may think of this little essay as a prayer. This has been a good year in some ways for Congregation Rodef Sholom, with the 150th Celebration and a flurry of Bar-Mitzvahs.

The question is: what do we do next year? My concern: an undertone of apathy, when what is needed is a reinvigoration of energizing and stimulating celebrations and events, such as Allen Samuels’ Sunday picnic at Buhl Park in Hermitage last Sunday with a Beatles band. Or perhaps educational events. Got any good ideas?

If so, please send them in to the office, and volunteer as a cultural agonist in our Congregation. With good response, we can form a committee and make it happen! And why not extend the invitation to our compatriots in the other Congregations?

L’Chayim

Bat Mitzvah of Marina Levy
Congregation Rodef Sholom
Saturday, Sept. 9, 10:30 a.m.

Marina Ella Levy was born in Bryn Mawr, PA on July 10, 2004 to Steven and Margaret Levy, granddaughter of Mark and Ellen Levy and Raphael and Aroon Clemens, and great granddaughter of Mort and Janet Check. Marina is the older sister of Alexandra Levy.

Marina will be celebrating her Bat Mitzvah with the guidance of Rabbi Frank Muller and the tutelage of Mrs. Pam Dutro.

Marina attended Howland Middle School and participated in a STEAM program which fostered her interests in art, drama, and computer programming. Marina maintained high honors at Howland.

This school year, Marina will be attending the Bio-med Science Academy.

(Continued on page 38)

High Holy Day Message

Rabbi Frank Muller
Congregation Rodef Sholom

A medieval rabbinic legend tells the story of a poor man condemned to death for stealing from the royal orchard. Seemingly resigned to his fate, the thief lamented that with him would die the secret of how a seed planted one day could bear fruit the next.

The king demanded to know how such a marvel would be accomplished. The thief dug a hole, and then — turning to the court — explained that the seed would have to be planted by someone who had never taken anything that did not belong to him. “Obviously, I cannot plant the seed because I am a thief.”

When none of the royal attendants stepped forward and even the king hesitated, the poor man cried out, “You are all rich and want for nothing, yet you cannot plant the seed; while I who am poor and stole only to ease my hunger am now to be hanged!” The king acknowledged that this was a very clever man. The thief was set free, and for his part the king vowed to judge others with greater compassion and understanding.

Empathy and kindness are laudable, essential human virtues; but arguably a more important lesson is to be learned here. The parable of the king’s orchard illustrates the all-too-frequent human tendency to condemn in others the very behavior we display in our own practice.

Moreover, when we hold others accountable for actions that we ourselves exhibit, we are almost always unaware that we are doing so. The Al Chet prayer in the High Holy Day machzor frames this dynamic as, “For the wrong we did before You by forgiving in ourselves what we condemn in others.” Such mirroring behavior, identified in the prayer book as a universal failing, is an often overlooked but not uncommon feature in human relations.

Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur ask us to look deep within our souls, to identify and root out such destructive and corrosive attitudes. A synagogue is, at its best, a laboratory for the practice of nonjudgmental, compassionate behavior towards our fellow congregants and all visitors and guests to our sanctuary.

When we enter its doors, sensitivity, kindness and generosity of spirit should be the by-words of our relations with others. “Audacious hospitality” is what URJ President Rabbi Rick Jacobs called it when he spoke in our Temple for our 150th anniversary in May.

A wise saying from Jewish tradition tells us that if each person treated every other person as though he or she was the Messiah, we wouldn’t need to wait for one.

Reform Jews don’t believe in a personal or human Messiah, one individual who will magically transform the world. We do believe, however, in a Messianic Age, a time of universal peace and brotherhood brought about by human cooperation, respect for all people, and a recognition of the inherent dignity of each person as having been created in the Divine Image.

A crucial task for these holy days, and for the rest of the year as well, is to make the synagogue a true sanctuary, a safe haven where positive human interaction and ethical behavior reign supreme. It is to make our temples places of understanding, empathy, and loving-kindness that can serve as an example for how we should act towards one another, and towards all people, regardless of faith, race, gender or sexual orientation, within and outside of the sanctuary walls.

Let our congregations be sacred communities where all who worship with us are moved to say, “This is a place of inspiration, of devotion and dedication to the highest of human values.” May this lofty goal be realized in our temples, now and throughout the new year, and let it begin with each one of us, acting in a manner which exemplifies the best that is within us, and taught to us by our religious tradition.

Darlene and I both wish you and your loved ones a Happy New Year 5778. May it be a year of good health, good fortune and good times for all of us. May it be a year where we treat others as we would want to be treated ourselves.

L’shanah Tovah to one and all.

September 2017
The Jewish Journal Monthly Magazine
September Services
Friday, Sept. 1,  6 p.m.  Outdoor Shabbat Service
Outreach Service to YSU Students
Hosted by Joan and Audrey Schwebel.
A light supper will follow the service.
Reservations are mandatory by Tuesday, Aug. 29. To respond please call the Temple office at 330 744-5001.

Saturday, Sept. 9,  10:30 a.m.  Bat Mitzvah of Marina Levy in the Sanctuary. (See story, p. 38)

Friday, Sept. 15,  6 p.m.  Shabbat Service in Tamarkin Chapel

Rosh Hashanah
Wednesday, Sept. 20
Holiday dinner, Strouss Hall, 6 p.m.
Catering by Art Einzig
Member cost: $25 per person (age 13 and older); Non-Member Cost: $30 per person (age 13 and older)
Member & Non-member Children (age 7-12): $12.50 per child (age 6 under are free)
Kosher chicken, salmon and gluten-free meals are available by special request at an additional $5 cost per meal. Vegetarian meals are available by special request at no additional cost.
Reservation required by Wednesday, Sept. 13. Reservations are not confirmed until checks are received by the Temple. Seating requests must be in writing and are on a first-come, first-served basis.

Evening service, Sanctuary, 8 p.m.
Reception, Strouss Hall, 9:30 p.m.

Thursday, Sept. 21
Morning service in the Sanctuary, 10 a.m.
Tashlich service, Crandall Park, 12:30 p.m.
Join Rabbi Muller at Crandall Park immediately following the Rosh Hashanah morning service for Rodef Sholom’s 4th annual Tashlich service.
Please park cars on Redondo Road and walk over to the park area. The Tashlich ceremony is short, no more than 10-15 minutes.

Although it was not practiced by Reform Jews in generations past, it has been reevaluated and adopted in recent years by a number of Reform congregations who find it to be a cathartic experience emotionally and an uplifting experience spiritually. Why not give it a try this year? Please BYOB (bring your own bread).

Friday, Sept. 22,  6 p.m.  Shabbat Shuvah Service, Tamarkin Chapel

Memorial Services
Sunday, Sept. 24
Rodef Sholom Cemetery, 1:30 p.m.
Beth Israel Cemetery, Hermitage, PA, 3 p.m.

Yom Kippur
Friday, Sept. 29
Holiday dinner, Strouss Hall, 6 p.m.
Catering by Art Einzig
Member cost: $25 per person (age 13 and older); non-member cost: $30 per person (age 13 and older)
Member and non-member children (age 7-12), $12.50; age 6 under are free
Kosher chicken, salmon and gluten-free meals are available by special request at an additional $5 cost per meal. Vegetarian meals are available by special request at no additional cost.
Reservation required by Monday, Sept 25. Reservations are not confirmed until checks have been received by the Temple. Seating requests must be in writing and are on a first-come, first-served basis.

Kol Nidre
Kol Nidre Service, Sanctuary, 8 p.m.
Children’s service, Tamarkin Chapel, 2 p.m.

Saturday, Sept. 30
Children’s Service, Tamarkin Chapel, 10 a.m.
Morning Service, Sanctuary 10 a.m.
Break-the-Fast 6 p.m.

Following the conclusion of Yom Kippur services, the entire congregation is cordially invited to a Break-the-Fast in Strouss Hall with bagels, cream cheese, gefilte fish, herring, tuna salad, crackers, challah, hard boiled eggs, fruit salad and other light foods. Please call the Temple office at 330 744-5001 for reservations. Reservations are required by Tuesday, Sept. 26.

Break-the-Fast is free to Rodef Sholom members. However, there is a $10 per-person cost for non-members. Any non-member payments must be received at the Temple office by the reservation deadline. Mail to Congregation Rodef Sholom, 1119 Elm Street, Youngstown, OH 44505

Please note: Babysitting will be available for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur services. Those who need babysitting, should call the Temple office at 330 744-5001 for reservations.

Holiday greetings from Sisterhood

As the summer winds down we are quickly reminded the High Holidays are approaching. The most sacred time of the year is the period of the High Holidays from Rosh Hashanah on Thursday, Sept. 21, to Yom Kippur on Saturday, Sept. 30.

Rosh Hashanah, the “Head of the Year,” the day of remembrance, is marked by blowing the Shofar and begins the 10 days of penitence culminating in Yom Kippur. The sounding of the Shofar symbolizes our humility as we stand before G-d and confront our actions. On Yom Kippur, we allow ourselves to open and view our struggles and shortcomings.

Then Self-Examination, Repentance and Change.

Rodef Sholom Sisterhood & Temple El Emeth Sisterhood
13th Annual Card Party and Luncheon

Both Sisterhoods are looking forward to a wonderful day of cards, friendship, and food, on Tuesday, Oct. 17 at 11 a.m.

Please make your reservations as soon as possible, with reservations taken until Thursday, Oct. 12 by mailing the reservation with a check for $15 (which includes luncheon) to the Rodef Sholom Temple office, 1119 Elm Street, Youngstown, OH 44505.

If payment is not received by the deadline, there will be a late reservation charge of $18 per person at the door. No reservations by phone. Thank you.

Delicious mushroom barley soup will be available to purchase on the day of the event for $10 per quart.

Come play Mah Jong, Bridge, Canasta, Rummy Q or any other game you wish! Bring your own Mah Jong cards, etc. you may also purchase Mah Jong cards at the gift shop.

All guests are welcome!

Bat Mitzvah — Marina Levy (cont’d from p. 37)

located on the campus of Northeast Ohio Medical University in Rootstown.
Continuing to express her interest in the arts, Marina has performed under the guidance of Liz Rubino, national performer and teaching artist, and in Rabbi Muller’s plays, including Annie, Star Wars, Frozen and Beauty and the Beast.

She appreciates music and has dabbled with the violin, cello, piano, and guitar. Marina has sung in choir and is currently taking singing lessons from Susan Foster Lehman, international opera singer and voice teacher.

We invite you to celebrate with us as Marina is called to the Torah and for the Kiddush luncheon in Strouss Hall.
R.S.V.P to the Temple at 330 744-5001 by Tuesday, Sept. 5 for the luncheon.
Fun and games at JCC Maccabi

by Gon Erez

I wanted to take this opportunity to share my experience from the 2017 Capital Region JCC Maccabi games that took place in early August in hosted by the Sidney Albert JCC of Albany, NY.

On Sunday, Aug. 6, a group of 10 kids left the Akron JCC for the Cleveland airport. Three of our kids were part of that group—Henry Miller and Josh and Seth Newman. Later we joined the kids from Columbus and Cincinnati. All together, we were “Team Ohio.”

We boarded our first flight on time to Baltimore, and there we boarded on time with a delegation of 50 from JCC Greater Washington. That’s more than 60 teens and pre-teens on a flight to Albany. The flight attendant acknowledged us on the speaker, wishing us luck. The energy was great—and respectful.

We arrived in Albany on time, got our credentials and headed to the “Hub” where the athletes received their welcome bags and met up got picked up by their host families. We then met back together as a group of nearly 700 for the opening ceremonies.

During this time, the athletes traded pins with other delegations. Based on the feedback, the Team Ohio pin was the most popular pin for trade. The energy was very exciting and filled with Ruach (חºר) as we walked in the Trans Union Center with our Team Ohio banner in front of the crowd.

Later, during the opening ceremonies we danced and sang with The Maccabees, an American Orthodox Jewish all-male a cappella group based at Yeshiva University in New York City.

We watched videos about the games and the city of Albany and sang anthems for the United States, Mexico, Canada, and, of course, Israel. We remembered the Munich 11 athletes with a tribute of candle lighting. We heard speeches from a congressman and other JCCA representatives and watched the torch relay to light the Olympic cauldron.

On Monday, we began the competitions. In all of our team sports, we played two games and competed against some very strong teams, especially the Mexican soccer team and basketball teams from Brooklyn and New York.

Our athletes played hard, and we were proud of them. They were in wonderful spirits and clearly having a terrific time.

Another great aspect of the Maccabi was for kids who were not athletes. Instead, as “Star Reporters” they took part in this great experience by writing stories about the game and the athletes.

During breaks, athletes got to play in the “Hang Time” room which had arcade games, photo booths, egames, music, and art projects.

On Monday evening, an all-delegations event was held in the SEFCU Arena at the University of Albany campus, where multiple games were available including inflatables, laser tag, Frisbee, art projects, large scale chess, large scale Connect-Four, enormous inflatable Twister and more.

On Tuesday, everyone played in the second day of games that ultimately ranked us for the medal games that began the following day.

As it had on Monday, Team Ohio played very strong in basketball, soccer, and baseball, definitely winners as a strong and spirited team, although we were unable to pull out any wins by points on the board.

One parent, who hosted three of our boys, said the kids from Ohio are the nicest of them all. The host mother of five girls, including two from Ohio, asked if she could keep them, to which we joked “Yes.”

Before we played for medals, all athletes participated in a JCC Cares project through which they wrote caring notes to include in packages of donated food and other items that will be sent to families in need. It was a big project and the words they used on their notes showed a lot of care towards others.

Based on feedback from volunteers, host families, other teams, JCC Maccabi staff and what I have observed, Team Ohio was one of the most well-liked and respected teams at the games.

And, of course the games are just part of the experience at JCC Maccabi.

We wish everybody a happy new year — Shana Tovah!!
Holiday goodness: pomegranate and honey glazed chicken

By Liz Rueven

(The Nosher via JTA) — Pomegranates, or rimonim in Hebrew, are among the most recognizable and highly symbolic fruits in Jewish culture. Originating in Persia, these reddish, thick-skinned fruits (technically a berry) begin to appear in markets at the end of summer and are readily available for holiday cooking by Rosh Hashanah.

According to Gil Marks in *The Encyclopedia of Jewish Food*, the abundance of seeds, encased in a protective and leathery skin, is associated with the Torah’s 613 commandments. They serve as symbols of righteousness and fruitfulness.

This ancient fruit, prized for its juice and seeds (called arils), is mentioned in the Bible as one of the seven most bountiful agriculture products of ancient Israel and is even mentioned six times in the Song of Songs.

In biblical times, pomegranates were used to add tart flavors to ancient dishes before lemons and tomatoes were discovered. Since then, pomegranates have been used to add unique and complex dimensions to Sephardic and central Asian soups, stews, sauces, chutneys and desserts. They may be juiced, dried, reduced, ground or pressed into pomegranate oil.

Today, pomegranates are prized for their antioxidant and potent nutritional value, just as they were in ancient Egypt when the seeds were believed to heal intestinal disorders. Juice, molasses (actually a reduction and thickening of the juice and sometimes called pomegranate concentrate or syrup) and arils are used in a wide range of applications including cocktails, glazes, simmer sauces, and glistening toppings for green salads and vegetable dishes.

In *The New Persian Kitchen*, author Louisa Shafia offers numerous pomegranate dishes, including a classic Iranian stew called fesenjan that is often served at celebrations. The chicken is cooked with beets and thickened with coarsely ground walnuts and pomegranate molasses. As in many Persian dishes, pomegranate seeds are used as a glistening, jewel-like garnish.

Ms. Shafia illustrates removing the seeds a few different ways, but I like the “water method” best. Simply slice off the two ends and quarter the fruit with a knife. Submerge the quarters in a bowl of cold water and pull out the seeds with your fingers. The pith and skin float to the surface as the arils sink to the bottom. Scoop out everything but the seeds and pour water and seeds through a mesh colander to collect them.

Consider using pomegranates in your Rosh Hashanah meals when it is considered a positive omen, or segulah, to incorporate symbolic foods in our holiday menus. Make this easy chicken dish and you’ll have both bountiful and sweet symbols covered.

Holiday chicken is especially potent with pomegranates goodness as this symbolic fruit is used in three ways: juice, molasses and arils (seeds). The flavors are bold, tangy and slightly sweet — a Middle Eastern-influenced sweet and sour.

Pomegranates are highly symbolic in Jewish tradition, most often associated with fertility and good deeds. By combining the tart flavors of pomegranates with honey here, the sweetness balances the tang and positive energy is imbued in this main course for Rosh Hashanah.

(See recipe on adjacent page.)

**Saffron rice – a perfect accompaniment**

By Patricia R. Kelvin
Editor Jewish Journal

Rice is not mentioned in the Bible — unlike pomegranates — but Middle Eastern, Central Asian, Indian, and Sephardi Jews have been enjoying rice together with saffron for centuries.

Pilaf — the roots of the word are found in ancient Sanskrit and Persian — has hundreds of varieties, and is frequently a main dish with the addition of meats, fruits and nuts, additional spices, and vegetables.

Given the richness of the pomegranate chicken (recipe on adjacent page), a pilaf can be a simple side dish along with a green vegetable creates a delicious, balanced meal.

(Recipe on adjacent page)
**Recipe**

**Ingredients:**
- 1 4-pound chicken cut in eighths (breasts cut in half if large)
- 4 tablespoons canola oil (separated: 2 tablespoons for simmer sauce and 2 tablespoons for browning the chicken)
- 1 large onion, chopped
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 1/2 cup pomegranate molasses
- 1/2 cup sweetened pomegranate juice
- 1/2 cup honey
- 2 cups vegetable or chicken broth
- 1 teaspoon cumin
- 1/2 teaspoon powdered ginger
- 1/8 teaspoon allspice
- 1/2 teaspoon turmeric
- salt and pepper to taste

**Directions:**
Heat 2 tablespoons canola oil in a large pan (you’ll need a lid for later).
Sauté chopped onion until soft and translucent. Add minced garlic and sauté for 2-3 minutes (do not brown).
Add pomegranate molasses, juice, honey, broth and spices.
Stir and bring to boil. Reduce to an active simmer, and cook uncovered, for about 20 minutes or until sauce is reduced by about half the volume and slightly thickened.
Remove sauce from heat and pour into bowl. Set aside.

Note: The simmer sauce may be prepared two to three days ahead and refrigerated until ready to prepare the chicken.

Wash pan.
Rinse chicken parts, pat dry, season with salt and pepper.
Heat remaining 2 tablespoons of oil in pan and place chicken parts skin side down. Brown on one side and flip to second side. Do not crowd chicken in the pan, as this causes chicken to steam rather than brown.
Lower heat, pour prepared simmer sauce over the chicken. Cover pan and simmer on low for 35-40 minutes.
Remove from pan and platter, garnishing with chopped parsley and pomegranate arils.

*(Liz Rueven's blog, Kosher Like Me, features restaurant and product reviews, tips on events where like-minded eaters like her can actually eat, and news about folks in the food world.)*

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

Journal editor's note: Although this recipe’s creator called for using one pan, most home cooks should have at least two — making preparation easier.

When I browned the chicken in 2 T canola oil, it stuck. I’d recommend using a non-stick pan.

Since pomegranates are not yet in season (as of Aug. 25), I couldn’t garnish the chicken as the author’s photo suggests. The produce manager at Giant Eagle assures me they should be in by mid-September.

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**Make checks payable to Dodi Li BBG and mail to:**
Jewish Community Center
Attn: Emily Blau
505 Gypsy Lane, Youngstown, OH 44504
For more information, contact Emily Blau, City Director, at (330) 746-3250 Ext.152 or eblau@jewishyoungstown.org

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**Saffron rice (continued from previous page)**

**Ingredients:**
- 2 C basmati rice
- 1/2 C chopped onion
- 3T Canola oil
- 2 pinches saffron, soaked in 2 T hot water.
- 3 1/2 C chicken stock (I use Brad’s Kosher stock, available at Marc’s)
- Salt to taste
- 1/4-1/2 C toasted sliced almonds (optional, but I love the crunch)

**Directions:**
Rinse rice until water runs clear. Drain the rice and spread it on paper towels to dry.
Sautéé chopped onion in oil until just golden.
Add dried rice, stirring constantly tile rice starts to turn golden. At that point, lower heat.
Sprinkle with almonds before serving.

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**Let us help you make this New Year extra sweet!**

Dodi Li BBG’s Annual Rosh Hashanah Basket Sale!!!!

Basket includes: Apples, Honey, Challah, Wine, Candles, Cinnamon Sticks and a special Recipe Card

Cost: $25 per basket for pickup at the JCC.

All pickups will be at the Jewish Community Center on Tuesday, September 19th from 9am - 2pm.

*Limited delivery option available upon request for an extra $5 charge*

All money raised will support our local B’nai B’rith Girls chapter, Dodi Li BBG #69, and involvement in regional BBYO events!

*Please fill out the order form below and return by Wednesday, September 13th*

| Name: ____________________________ |
| Phone: ___________________________ |
| Email (for pickup reminder): _______________ |
| Number of baskets: _____ Donation? $_______ |
| Amount enclosed: ______ |
| Gift? __Yes, gift card to read: ___________________ |

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**Saffron rice (continued from previous page)**

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Sprinkle with almonds before serving.
that came through from the corn. They were golden brown pillows of joy.

Arepas essentially are griddle cakes made from pre-cooked cornmeal that can be prepared in myriad ways: grilled, fried or sautéed in oil. In addition they can be stuffed, topped with ingredients — extra ingredients can even be mixed into the dough. They also can be made on the sweet side — my grandmother would put a little sugar in the dough -- but they are more commonly served as a savory dish.

Arepas are a popular staple in Colombian and Venezuelan cuisines. My Mami Lucy — she never liked being called grandmother because it made her sound old — was born in Colombia. She told me that Venezuelans are known for making more elaborate arepas, while Colombians keep them pretty simple.

These spiced lamb arepas with hummus are definitely not your traditional arepa, but the flavors work so well together with the mild corn flavor in the masa (dough). I sautéed them to achieve a char on the outside, which creates a delightful crunch that is met by the creaminess of the hummus. Spiced ground lamb then coats your tongue, and the sweet tomatoes, mint and pine nuts just bring the whole thing together.

**Ingredients:**

**For the homemade arepas (can also use pre-packaged arepas):**

- 2 cups masarepa (I used the goya brand)
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 4 cups warm water
- Olive oil for sautéing

**For the lamb:**

- 1 1/2 pounds ground lamb
- kosher salt to taste
- 10 turns of freshly ground black pepper
- 1/2 teaspoon ground coriander
- 1/8 teaspoon cinnamon
- Pinch of ground allspice
- 1/2 teaspoon onion powder
- 1/2 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1/2 teaspoon paprika
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- salt in a bowl until well combined. Let stand for a few minutes until the mixture sticks together.

2. Separately, in another bowl, season ground lamb with all the spices.
4. Form arepa patties about 3 to 4 inches across and 1/2 inch in thickness using hands.

5. Coat a sauté pan with olive oil and cook arepas until brown (or charred, depending on preference) on both sides. Both sides should be crispy.
6. Allow to cool and then slice the arepa lengthwise.
7. Spread hummus on the top and bottom flap of the arepa. Add the spiced lamb mixture and top with diced tomato, diced pepper, pine nuts and mint. Serve immediately or at room temperature. Serves 8 arepas (4 servings).

(Sandy Leibowitz is a trained chef, recipe developer and food blogger. She has worked at various New York restaurants. Find more of her recipes at www.thekoshertomato.com and follow her on Instagram @thekoshertomato.)

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

**Journal editor’s note:** When I made these, I used only 3 cups of water, the amount the recipe on the masarepa package calls for. Using 1 1/2 pounds of lamb left me with plenty left over. I’d recommend using 3/4 lb. of lamb, but leave the spice amounts as the recipe calls for. This would make quite a treat for Sukkot when our traditions suggests various stuffed foods.
Charlottesville’s Jewish mayor is an expert on demagogues, and now on anti-Semitism

By Ron Kampeas

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va. (JTA) — Michael Signer, the Jewish mayor of Charlottesville, has one thing in common with the white supremacists who descended on his southern Virginia city over the weekend: He also opposed the removal of a statue of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee.

Of course, Signer’s reasons for preserving the statue would have appalled the supremacists: He agreed with local African-American activists who had argued that preserving the statue was a means of teaching Virginians about the horrors of a “dishonorable” cause, the Confederacy.

Mayor Signer was on the losing side of a 3-2 City Council decision, and the statue is now slated for removal. But his thoughtful approach, more typical of an academic than a politician, has also been evident in his counsel during the rash of protests that have plagued this city: “Don’t take the bait,” he has said.

In giving that advice, Mr. Signer has noted that for the first time in his life, he has been the target of intense baiting as a Jew.

“I can’t see the world through a black person’s eyes,” he said at a June 13 address at an African-American church, where he urged constituents not to give in to the impulse to counter hatred with hatred.

“I can see it through a Jewish person’s eyes; the KKK hates Jews just as much as they hate black people. The stuff with this group online about Jews is unbelievable, bloodcurdling. The stuff I’ve gotten on my phone at my house, you’d think it was done a hundred years ago.”

Atty. Signer, 44, a practicing lawyer in Charlottesville, also lectures on politics and leadership at the University of Virginia, his law school alma mater. His wife, Emily Blout, is an Iran scholar at the same university, which is located here.

An Arlington native, Mayor Signer is the child of journalists, but in his author’s autobiography sounds like many other younger liberal Jews who note with pride their grandparents’ working class and intellectual roots:

“My grandfather was a Jeep mechanic for the Army on the European front in World War II and lifetime member of the proofreaders’ union at the New York Times; he lost part of a finger in an industrial accident as a young man,” he wrote. “My grandmother organized seamstresses on her factory floor in New York City and later worked as a secretary to Hannah Arendt at the New School.”

In a January speech declaring Charlottesville “a capital of the resistance,” Mayor Signer described his grandfather as a “Jewish kid raised in the Bronx” who was “part of the forces that liberated the world from Nazism and fascism, that laid the groundwork for NATO and the Marshall Plan, and for a country that lived up to the promises of the Statue of Liberty. …

“If he were alive right now, I don’t think I could look him in the face and say Grandpa, I didn’t fight for the values you fought for.”

Before becoming mayor, Atty. Signer was known both for his activism in the senior reaches of the Democratic Party — he was national security adviser for John Edwards’ 2008 primary campaign — as well as his expertise on a subject that has received much attention recently, demagoguery. His 2009 book, “Demagogue: The Fight to Save Democracy from its Worst Enemies,” was well received.

The book examines successful demagogues left and right: Sen. Joe McCarthy, the 1950s anti-communist firebrand who plagued the American discourse, and Hugo Chavez, the late Venezuelan strongman and leftist, both come under scrutiny. In December 2015, before the presidential primaries, Signer predicted that Donald Trump could become a “singular menace to our Republic.”

Paraphrasing James Fenimore Cooper, Atty. Signer wrote then that Trump met all four criteria of an American demagogue: “they posture as men of the common people; they trigger waves of powerful emotion; they manipulate this emotion for political benefit; and they threaten or break established principles of governance.”

Without saying “I told you so” outright, this weekend he squarely blamed Trump for stoking the populist white nationalist fervor that culminated in the violence that took the life of one counterprotester, injured dozens of others and led to the death of two state troopers in a helicopter crash. The rally included Nazi flags, chants of “Jews will not replace us,” and shouts of “Jew” every time a speaker mentioned Signer’s name.

“Look at the campaign he ran,” the mayor said on CNN.

Mayor Signer elaborated on NBC’s “Meet the Press,” saying of Trump, “I think they made a choice in that campaign, a very regrettable one, to really go to people’s prejudices, to go to the gutter.”
Curious George’s creators saved the beloved monkey from the Nazis

By Gabe Friedman

(JTA) — Curious George — that curious little monkey — is beloved by millions of readers around the world. His adventures with the Man With the Yellow Hat impart important life lessons amidst silliness and mayhem.

But many people probably don’t know that the children’s book character was actually born during very dark times. His two Jewish creators, Margret and H.A. Rey, fled the Nazis in 1940 — on homemade bicycles, no less — carrying their unpublished manuscripts with them.

The story of the couple’s daring escape is told in the documentary “Monkey Business: The Story of Curious George’s Creators,” which premiered online and on on-demand platforms on Tuesday, Aug. 15.

At the same time, in a coincidence of timing, the 2005 children’s book The Journey That Saved Curious George, will be mailed to 8- to 11-year-olds across the country this month through the PJ Library, a non-profit that champions Jewish-themed children’s books.

No matter what the format, the story of Curious George’s creators is a fascinating one.

Hans Augusto Rey (née Reyersbach) and Margret Waldstein first met in Hamburg in the 1920s. The then Ms. Waldstein, who had studied art at the influential Bauhaus school and whose father was a member of the German parliament, left Germany for Brazil in 1935 to escape the rising tide of anti-Semitism. Hans Rey had been working in Rio de Janeiro as a bathtub salesman. The pair, who had met over a decade before in Germany, married that year and moved to Paris.

Mr. Rey worked as a cartoon illustrator for a newspaper, and Mrs. Rey wrote copy. A French publisher was impressed with some of his animal drawings and suggested they work on a children’s book. Their first work was Raphael and the Nine Monkeys, and one of those monkeys would later become George.

By June 1940, the situation in Paris looked grim as Hitler’s troops began to close in. Millions of people flocked to trains heading to the south of the country, and the Reys could not get a ticket.

(Continued on next page)
Monkey (cont’d from prior page)

They didn’t own a car, so they decided to flee by bike, as Louise Borden explains in The Journey That Saved Curious George. The only problem: They couldn’t find a bike anywhere, either.

Somehow, Hans Rey did something that sounds like a plot point in a children’s fantasy book: He made two bikes that night using spare parts. That incredible act likely saved their lives, as well as the future of the monkey that would become Curious George.

Before their escape, Margret Rey rounded up all of their unpublished children’s book manuscripts, including one titled Fifi: The Adventures of a Monkey. The couple biked out of the city 48 hours before the Germans occupied Paris, and slept in barns and restaurants on their journey out of France.

As if in return for being saved, the curious little monkey character helped saved the Reys. As “Monkey Business” director Ema Ryan Yamazaki documents, whenever they were stopped at checkpoints during their escape, the couple brandished the manuscripts and illustrations to prove that they were not dangerous.

They eventually made their way to Lisbon, then back to Brazil, then to New York. Fifi became George, and in 1941, Houghton Mifflin published the first “Curious George” book. Since then over 75 million “Curious George” books have been sold and the series has been translated into 19 languages. (He’s also the star of an animated PBS program for kids that premiered in 2006.)

H.A. Rey died in 1977, and Margaret Rey died in 1996.

Yamazaki, who grew up partially in the U.S. and partially in Japan, said she was inspired by the Reys’ story of immigrant success.

“With a deepening refugee crisis and inflamed anti-immigrant rhetoric across the globe, the Reys’ story has become unexpectedly more relevant in the two years I have been making the documentary,” she wrote last year. “The Reys’ refugee story has a happy ending, and represents the American dream at its best.”

B’nai B’rith starts a new tradition while continuing the old (Continued from p. 16)

participants.

Jeffrey Mandel, director of B’nai B’rith Membership Services in Washington, DC, and Dr. Steven Sigma, past-president of B’nai B’rith’s Allegheny/Ohio region and currently a member of the organizations executive board, were there to demonstrate the importance of such events. Mr. Samuels said, “Having Jeff Mandel and Steve Smiga there was a real plus.”

The picnic was billed as the “first annual” and already Mr. Samuels is talking about 2018. “I just like bringing people together” he said, and “would like to continue doing the picnic next year.” He said his parents were very active in the community organizing projects with UJA and B’nai B’rith, and he wants to continue that tradition.

And the tradition is a long one. B’nai B’rith is one of the oldest social service organizations in the world.

In 1843, Henry Jones and 11 other German-Jewish immigrants gathered in Sinsheimer’s Café on New York’s Lower East Side to confront what Isaac Rosenberg, one of B’nai B’rith’s founders, called the “deplorable condition of Jews in this, our newly adopted country.”

Thus, B’nai B’rith (children of the covenant) was born.

The original members’ first concrete action was creating an insurance policy that awarded members’ widows $30 toward funeral expenses, and a stipend of one dollar a week for the rest of their lives. Each child would also receive a stipend and, for male children, assurance he would be taught a trade.

It is from this basis of humanitarian aid and service that a system of fraternal lodges and chapters grew in the United States and, eventually, around the world.

Many of the earliest achievements of B’nai B’rith represented firsts within the Jewish community, including aid in response to disasters.

In 1851, Covenant Hall was erected in New York as the first Jewish community center in the United States.

One year later, B’nai B’rith established in New York the Maimonides Library, the first Jewish public library in the United States.

Immediately following the Civil War—when Jews on both sides of the battle were left homeless—B’nai B’rith founded the 200-bed Cleveland Jewish Orphan Home, described as the most modern orphanage of its time.

In 1868, when a devastating flood crippled Baltimore, B’nai B’rith responded with a disaster relief campaign. This act preceded the founding of the American Red Cross by 13 years and was the first of many domestic relief programs.

That same year, B’nai B’rith sponsored its first overseas philanthropic project, raising $4,522 to aid the victims of a cholera epidemic in what was then Palestine.

B’nai B’rith involvement in international affairs dates to the 1870s when anti-Semitism reached new heights in Romania. Through the influence of B’nai B’rith, the U.S. government established a consulate there, and a former B’nai B’rith president, Benjamin Peixotto, was appointed the first consul.

B’nai B’rith was present at the founding of the United Nations in San Francisco and has taken an active role ever since as an NGO (nongovernmental organization) advocating for Israel and human rights at the U.N. and other international organizations.

With the graying of the American-Jewish population, service to seniors became a major focus in 1971. In that year B’nai B’rith opened its first senior residence in what would become a network of 40 senior residences in more than 25 communities across the United States and internationally. B’nai B’rith is the largest national Jewish sponsor of housing for seniors.

B’nai B’rith International has not moved far from its roots, but rather allowed these roots to grow in countries all across the globe. No other Jewish organization can point to a longer, more all-encompassing history of service to Jews and all people around the world.

More response to Charlottesville

Continued from p. 31

of the young lady who was hit by a vehicle,” he said, according to Department of Defense News. “I can absolutely and unambiguously tell you there is no place — no place — for racism and bigotry in the U.S. military or in the United States as a whole.”

Dunford spoke after chiefs of the Army, the Air Force, the Navy, the Marines and the National Guard posted similar statements on social media.

“They were speaking directly to the force and to the American people: to the force to make clear that that kind of racism and bigotry is not going to stand inside the force,” Dunford said. “And to the American people, to remind them of the values for which we stand in the U.S. military, which are reflective of the values of the United States.”

Cash family denounces neo-Nazis

(Continued from p. 31)

The Cashes wrote.

“[Cash] championed the rights of Native Americans, protested the war in Vietnam, was a voice for the poor, the struggling and the disenfranchised, and an advocate for the rights of prisoners,” the statement continued. “He would be horrified at even a casual use of his name or image for an idea or a cause founded in persecution and hatred. The white supremacists and neo-Nazis who marched in Charlottesville are poison in our society, and an insult to every American hero who wore a uniform to fight the Nazis in WWII, including men in the extended Cash family were among those who served with honor.”
Hadassah’s donor luncheon

Tri-County Hadassah Chapter invites members and guests to its annual donor event, Sept. 14, at 12 noon at Congregation Rodef Sholom, 1119 Elm Rd., Youngstown.

The keynote speaker will be Bonnie Deutsch Burdman, director of community relations and government relations of the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation. She will share her latest Israeli experiences with us.

Marilyn Oyer, membership chairperson, will be honored as the Tri-County Hadassah Woman of the Year. She has served Tri-County Hadassah Chapter in many leadership capacities since becoming a life member in 1964.

The luncheon will be catered by life member Joan Schwebel. The cost of the luncheon $18. Reservations are required by Sept. 6. Donation checks should be made out to Tri-County Hadassah.

Funds will be used for the Hadassah Medical Organization, a complex that rivals the finest hospitals in the world and welcomes millions of patients each year, regardless of race, religion or nationality.

Patients at the medical center find cutting-edge medical research, which is finding new treatments for heart disease, cancer, ALS and more;

Hadassah’s Center for Women’s Health, the only one of its kind in Israel, is a multidisciplinary center that takes a holistic approach to women’s health.

Hadassah also funds advocacy and training for tomorrow’s leaders; and our Jewish future through our on-going investment in Young Judea and Youth Aliyah.

For Donor reservations call —
Lenore Ackerman 330 759-0325
Jeanette Mandel 330 372-3183
Beverly Nathan 724 308-6111

Ongoing fundraiser

Hadassah is now collecting fall clothing at Raks. Winter clothing will be accepted in November. Drop-off days are Monday, Wednesday and Thursday. The Hadassah account number is 6984. For pick-up, call Bonnie Lehman at 330 856-2158. For tax receipts, call Phyllis Landau at 330 565-2280.

JCC Camp ‘color wars’ fundraiser

Happily washing cars at the JCC are (from left) Abigail Zolk, Ryann Harden, and Kara Hunt.

Every year, “Color Wars” takes place during the last week of camp as all the campers are divided up into four teams: red, yellow, green, and blue.

The teams compete all week in activities for points, and the team that has the most points at the end of the week wins Color Wars.

The teams each participate in the car wash fundraiser, and each team got

(Continued on p. 60)
New York, NY/Washington, August 18, 2017 – The U.S. Conference of Mayors (USCM) and The Anti-Defamation League today announced a new joint plan to fight extremism and bigotry and promote justice and equality in response to the disturbing hate and violence seen in Charlottesville, Va. More than 200 mayors from across the country representing USCM so far have pledged to implement the plan.

Signatories included Youngstown Mayor John A. McNally, and other Ohio mayors John Cranley, Cincinnati; Frank G. Jackson, Cleveland, Andrew Ginther, Columbus; Nan Whaley, Dayton; Lydia Mihalik, Findlay; David J. Berger, Columbus; Nan Whaley, Dayton; Lydia G. Jackson, Cleveland, Andrew Ginther, Mayor John A. McNally, and other Ohio mayors from across the country representing USCM so far have pledged to implement the plan.

Under the Compact, mayors commit to vigorously speak out against all acts of hate; punish bias-motivated violence to the fullest extent of the law; encourage more anti-bias and anti-hate education in schools and police forces, using ADL experts and resources for both; encourage community activities that celebrate their population's cultural and ethnic diversity; and ensure civil rights laws are aggressively enforced and hate crimes laws are as strong as possible.

“Terrorism by white supremacists, like what took place in Charlottesville, is a clear and present danger to America’s cities,” said Austin Mayor Steve Adler. “Mayors are eager to join with the Anti-Defamation League to fight hate, and I’m honored that Mayor Landrieu asked me to help lead a coordinated campaign across this country to promote the Mayors’ Compact to Combat Hate, Extremism and Bigotry. Only the Statute of Liberty should be carrying a torch these days, and her message of respect must echo in America’s cities where this battle is being fought.”

“Charlottesville made clear that we have a lot more work to do in our communities and we can’t wait a minute longer to step up our efforts,” said Jonathan Greenblatt, ADL CEO and National Director. “The U.S. Conference of Mayors deserves credit for their leadership. Mayors have always been strong supporters of civil rights and counterweights to those who discriminate. ADL could not have found a better partner to work with against hate.”

“What happened in Charlottesville last weekend reminds us all that violent hate and racism are very much alive in America in 2017,” said Tom Cochran, CEO and executive director of the U.S. Conference of Mayors.

“For decades, America’s mayors have taken a strong position in support of civil rights and in opposition to racism and discrimination of all kinds. The Compact released today builds off our Leadership for America: Mayors’ Agenda for the Future, adopted by the United States Conference of Mayors and released by New Orleans Mayor Mitch Landrieu, president of the USCM at our June 85th annual conference of mayors in Miami Beach.”

“As mayors, we are the voice of our cities. It’s important for us to have a united voice in denouncing the hate that has been plaguing our nation,” said Columbia Mayor and USCM Vice President Steve Benjamin. “We often forget that our country, the UNITED States of America, is a nation of immigrants past and present. Our founding fathers created America based off of an ideal – that one nation, under God, would be invisible with liberty and justice for all. An America that is the greatest democratic nation in the history of the world. We MUST remember that in this America, there is no room for hate. There is no room for injustice. There is no room for fear induced by divisiveness.”

“When white supremacists, bigots, and hateful extremists march in our streets with torches and swastikas, inciting violence and spreading ignorant rhetoric, our core national values are under attack,” said Gresham Mayor Shane Bemis. “America’s mayors know first-hand how important it is for all of our neighbors to be included in our communities, and we stand together in our outrage over the recent events in Charlottesville, and anywhere this type of behavior occurs.”

“Even as we uphold and ensure free speech in our cities, as mayors we can never let hate go unchecked,” says Anaheim Mayor Tom Tait. “We must call out racial extremism for what is — provocation to divide and incite. Like cities across the nation, Anaheim draws strength in diversity and a culture of kindness. We are with all who peacefully stand against hate and intolerance.”

“The recent violent acts in Charlottesville create a strong awareness that while we have made great strides to combat bigotry and hatred, we must note these topics as priority on our agendas,” said Gary Mayor Karen Freeman-Wilson. “We must remain vigilant in our own neighborhoods and cities to ensure these acts receive no air time, both figuratively and literally. Our job is not only to condemn those sentiments that fly in the face of our democracy, it is to promote tolerance and love of all people and freedom and justice for all.”
By Sheri Silver

(The Nosher via JTA) — Like most Jewish holidays, Rosh Hashanah brings to mind certain traditional food customs – the most well-known being the dipping of apples in honey.

And while a classic apple pie or cake is a lovely way to commemorate our hopes for a “sweet new year,” I thought it would be fun to change things up a bit. These apple and honey pie “pops” are a cinch to make – and even more fun to eat. They can be assembled (and frozen) in advance, and are especially nice to serve for a crowd – no cutting or forks needed!

Even better, you only need a few simple ingredients, yet wind up with something truly delicious – and a little different. Sweet indeed.

**Ingredients:**
- 2 Granny Smith apples, peeled and diced
- 2 tablespoons sugar
- 2 tablespoons honey
- 1/4 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1 package (2 crusts) refrigerated pie crusts, set out at room temperature for 15 minutes
- 1 egg, beaten with 1 tablespoon water
- Raw or “sanding” sugar, for sprinkling

**Special equipment:**
- 2- to 3-inch cookie cutter (or drinking glass)
- lollipop sticks

**Directions:**

In a medium pan combine the apples, sugar, honey, cinnamon and salt. Bring to a simmer and cook over low heat for about 10 minutes, or until the apples have softened and the juices have thickened. Remove from heat and let cool.

Preheat oven to 400° F.

Line two baking sheets with parchment paper.

Unroll one pie crust on a work surface. Use your cutter to make as many circles as you can; place on your prepared baking sheets.

Put a lollipop stick in the center of each circle, pressing down lightly to secure. Place a [heaping] teaspoon of cooled filling on each circle. Use a pastry brush to brush a bit of the beaten egg around the edge of each circle.

Unroll the second pie crust, and cut out an equal number of circles as the first crust. Place atop the filled crusts and press lightly to seal.

Crimp the edges with a fork, and make a few small incisions in the center to allow steam to escape.

Brush tops with the egg and sprinkle with the raw sugar (pops may be frozen at this point – reheat directly from the freezer, adjusting baking time by a few extra minutes).

Bake pops for 20 minutes; transfer trays to wire racks to cool completely. Serve warm or at room temperature (pops may be kept tightly sealed, at room temperature, for 3-5 days).

Sheri Silver writes the blog Donuts, Dresses and Dirt [http://sherisilver.com/], where she shares her passions for baking and cooking, gardening and shopping, and her adventures in and around New York City with her husband and three children.

Journal editor’s note: When I made these, I found that they needed a good heaping teaspoon of filling. And after taking the time to shop for the lollipop sticks, I’d leave them out next time, as too much hassle. They’re still a tasty micro-pie (read, filled cookie.)
JERUSALEM — United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres met privately in Jerusalem on Monday with representatives of the World Jewish Congress and the Israel Council on Foreign Relations (ICFR), which operates under its auspices. In welcoming Guterres, WJC CEO Robert Singer told the secretary general, “On behalf of WJC President Ronald S. Lauder, I would like to stress that your principled public stance against anti-Semitism is admired.

Guterres met with the delegation headed by ICFR President Dan Meridor and WJC CEO Singer, together with Israel’s Ambassador to the United Nations Danny Danon at the King David Hotel in Jerusalem for discussions on matters including the Middle East peace process and Israel’s role at the UN and within the wider Arab world.

This is the only official meeting Guterres held with a Jewish organization during his visit to Israel. Guterres and WJC President Ronald Lauder have established excellent channels of communication in the months since the secretary general took office.

WJC CEO Robert Singer told Guterres in opening remarks, “The struggle against anti-Semitism has always been at the core of the work of World Jewish Congress and we are grateful to have you as our determined ally in this fight,” Singer added.

Ambassador Danon said: “Anti-Semitism is not extinct; it has returned, and it raises its ugly head in the heart of progressive and liberal societies. It is precisely today that the entire world must establish a united front against anti-Semitism and denounce it. We appreciate the Secretary General’s clear commitment in this important struggle.”

Following the meeting, ICFR President Meridor described the talks between Guterres and the WJC-ICFR delegation as “positive and constructive dialogue.”

“We have found the UN secretary general to be fair-minded,” he said.
David Harris commentary (continued from page 2)

The love affair with America was instant. It never wavered. Life wasn’t always easy or fair, but for my mother and her family, in contrast to their past lives, this country had given them the most priceless gifts of all – a new beginning and the promise of safety and opportunity.

As an only child, I was rather indulged by my mother, but one of the very few times she showed raw anger was during the Vietnam War days, when I said some critical things about the U.S. Never forget, she said, that this country sheltered us, gave us a new start, and is the last, best beacon of hope for the world.

My late father was born in Hungary, and raised in Germany and Austria. He arrived in the United States after World War II, following an immensely difficult 12-year journey that began with Hitler’s assumption of power in January 1933 and didn’t end until V-E Day in May 1945.

For him, it was the same as for my mother. Okay, the coffee had been far better in Europe, and American football, as opposed to soccer, made absolutely no sense, not to mention baseball. But still, the U.S. was a unique land, worth fighting for, as he did so valiantly. He treasured this nation each and every day. He, too, had experienced the harsh denial of basic rights, and understood there was nothing more precious than possessing them.

My parents came to realize that America had its shortcomings, especially after a road trip they took from New York to Florida in 1959. I recall how excited I was for their return and the stories of their journey to the land of palm trees and beaches. Instead, all they could talk about was how thunder-struck they were to have witnessed widespread racial bigotry south of the Mason-Dixon Line.

As Jews in Nazi-occupied Europe, they were all too familiar with institutionalized segregation, but the idea that America, which had sacrificed so much to defeat Hitler and his racial theories, could permit some states to enforce it was unfathomable.

Yet in stark distinction to Nazi Germany and its allies, America was a work in progress that was ultimately answerable to its citizens. Hence the joy that greeted the landmark legislative and judicial decisions ending legalized racial discrimination. Once again, my parents’ abiding belief in this land was vindicated.

And then I got to see the essence of America through a third lens, my wife’s. She had been born and raised in Libya, a country that never knew the first thing about equal protection under the law, free and fair elections, smooth transfers of power, or First Amendment rights.

Sure, the Libyan constitution, adopted in 1951 when the country became independent, promised everything under the sun, but it was all a tragic façade, especially for the Jewish minority. Years later, my wife and her large family were lucky to escape with their lives. Some other Jews, tragically, perished at the hands of the bloodthirsty extremists.

Ever since she arrived in the U.S. in 1979, and, later, proudly became a citizen, my wife never ceased to say how fortunate she felt to live in a place where her rights did not depend on the whim of a ruler, but rather on the supremacy of law in a democratic society.

But, like my parents, she bemoaned the fact that too many native-born Americans seemed to take the gift of their birth here entirely for granted; that, having never experienced the absence of democracy, they couldn’t fully grasp its majestic meaning; and that they too often belittled America without understanding the symbol of hope it inspired across the globe.

At a time when some Americans assail our pluralism and diversity, and a few even wish to glamorize the Nazi era, it’s worth remembering where those roads can lead.

We have something special in this noble country worth standing up and fighting for, and, yes, unifying us. Maybe it’s best captured, my family might say, in those three defining words, E pluribus unum, and that enduring torch of freedom in New York Harbor.

*AJC was formerly known as the American Jewish Committee.

Editor’s noteDavid Harris is one of the Jewish people’s foremost leaders and most eloquent spokesman. He has led AJC, the premier global advocacy organization, since 1990.

The late Israeli President Shimon Peres referred to him as “the foreign minister of the Jewish people,” and former Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Danny Ayalon said: “David is the consummate Jewish diplomat of our time.”

Mr. Harris is the author of seven books – The Jewish World, Entering a New Culture, and five volumes of In the Trenches – and co-author of an eighth, The Jokes of Oppression. He has written hundreds of articles, op-eds, letters, and reviews in leading newspapers and magazines. From 2001 to 2015, he had a weekly spot on the CBS Radio Network, reaching millions of listeners across the United States. He writes a popular blog on international affairs at The Huffington Post [where this column first appeared] and Times of Israel.
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Alan R. and June D. Kretzer

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U.S. opioid epidemic reaches new level of crisis in overdoses, cost

BOSTON August 28 — A new study of the growing United States opioid epidemic reveals that deaths from overdoses have nearly doubled over the past seven years, while increasing acute care costs and hospitalizations are taxing health care systems.

The new paper, “The Critical Care Crisis of Opioid Overdoses in the United States” published online ahead of print in the Annals of the American Thoracic Society is believed to be the first to quantify the impact of opioid abuse on critical care resources in the U.S. The findings reveal that opioid-related demand for acute care services has outstripped the available supply.

In the cohort study, researchers from Ben-Gurion University of the Negev in Israel, Harvard Medical School and the University of Chicago analyzed nearly 23 million adult hospital admissions at 162 hospitals in 44 states over a seven-year period: Jan. 1, 2009 through Sept. 30, 2015.

Among the more than 4 million patients requiring acute care, the researchers found 21,705 who were admitted to intensive care units due to opioid overdoses. Admissions included overdoses for prescription drugs, methadone or heroin.

Opioid overdoses had increased even more in the past two years, which were not part of the study.

“We found a 34 percent increase in overdose-related ICU admissions while ICU opioid deaths nearly doubled during that same period,” according to Dr. Lena Novack, Ph.D., a lecturer in BGU’s School of Public Health. The mortality rates of these patients climbed at roughly the same rate, on average, with a steeper rise in deaths of patients admitted to the ICU for overdose after 2012.

The average cost of care per ICU overdose admission also rose significantly — 58 percent — from $58,517 in 2009 to $92,408 in 2015. In addition, the study indicated that opioid-related ICU admissions increased an average of more than half a percent each year over the seven-year timeframe, jumping from seven percent to 10 percent by the end of the study period.

Patients admitted to the ICU due to an overdose increasingly required intensive care, including high-cost renal replacement therapy or dialysis.

Admissions were identified using the Clinical Data Base/Resource ManagerTM of Vizient, Inc, which comprises data mainly from urban academic medical centers and may not reflect overdose-related acute care needs in other settings [such as Ohio]

“Our estimates may actually be on the low side,” Dr. Novack says. Since our team of researchers analyzed admissions rather than a manual chart review, we may not have captured every admission if opioid-related complications weren’t coded as such.”

The study also did not determine whether increased ICU admissions for opioid overdoses resulted from improved community emergency response that may have saved lives but then required critical care, or whether the increased ICU admissions indicated that community emergency response needs improvement so patients require a less intensive hospital care.

States with the highest opioid hospitalizations

The researchers found that Massachusetts and Indiana have the highest opioid admission densities in the nation. Pennsylvania experienced the sharpest rise in opioid-related overdoses during the study period, with critical care overdose admissions nearly doubling since 2009. Illinois, California, New York, and Indiana have also experienced ICU admission rate increases during the period.

“Our findings raise the need for a national approach to developing safe strategies to care for ICU overdose patients, to providing coordinated resources in the hospital for patients and families, and to helping survivors maintain sobriety following discharge,” the researchers conclude.

In addition to Dr. Novack, researchers involved in the study are Drs. Jennifer P. Stevens, John Marshall and Douglas J. Hsu at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Department of Medicine, Harvard Medical School and Dr. Michael J. Howell, University of Chicago.
By Mark Rubin  
President of Human Services Advisory Board  

As some of you may know, the past year has brought many changes to the Human Services department. We restructured the department and Jewish Family Services. This year, we hired Ken Bielecki, who is currently working with Alvin Weisberg in transition to Alvin's pending retirement. Ken will eventually be our new director at Jewish Family Services. He is currently part of the counseling team at JFS and is embracing his new responsibilities.

In addition, in August we hired Heidi Zagotti as a new secretary for JFS. Along with these changes, we recognized the need for the guardianship director and the director of JFS to have separate roles to move this arm of our organization forward while incorporating new programs to impact our community. As a result, in August we hired Jane Trambley who will be our new guardianship director.

At Heritage Manor, Cristal Vincent, our administrator who has worked with Gary Weiss for the last five years, was promoted to our chief executive officer effective July 1, 2017. She will oversee Heritage Manor, Levy Gardens, and Jewish Family Services going forward.

Gary plans to retire on Dec. 31, 2017 after serving faithfully and effectively as the executive director for 42 years. Gary’s leadership and contributions to our local, state, and national communities has been profound. He is esteemed by many long-term care administrators around the United States and has made those he has worked with and colleagues in the field better, professional people. We will miss him greatly.

Alvin Weisberg has also impacted the Jewish Community with 34 years of service at JFS. Alvin has helped many clients at JFS, not only in the role of counselor but as a guardian and friend to many. In addition, he has been a helpful resource to our community when needs have arisen. He will also be retiring in the New Year of 5778.

The operations at Levy Gardens are going well. Sara Miller, our Levy Gardens director, continues to keep Levy at full capacity, and there is a currently a waiting list for apartments there. Our standards of services are comprehensive in nature and represent the need to give our tenants their continued desire of independence.

Although last year we saw some changes, this New Year will also bring more changes in the area of the Human Services Department. Change is sometimes difficult to deal with, but it is also necessary, expected, and can be exciting for the Jewish community. Not only will our faithful, professional leaders be retiring after many years of service, but new leadership will continue to move the arms of service forward with new direction, new goals, and new visions for our Jewish and general community. It is with a great deal of anticipation that I look forward to this New Year and the exciting changes it will bring for us all.

May you be blessed with good health, happiness and peace. 
L’shana Tovah!

New Year’s Greetings from
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Claudia and Mel Moss

Wishing You a New Year of Health, Happiness, and Peace
Jim & Bobby Pazol

Wishing you a New Year of Health, Happiness, and Peace
Kimberly, Jeff, Zak & Zoe

Wishing You a New Year of Health, Happiness, and Peace
Joseph & Lisa Hollander
Texas Jewish communities hit hard by hurricane and flooding

(JTA/JNS) — Dozens of Jewish families in Houston were either evacuated or moved to the second floors of their homes due to flooding caused by Hurricane Harvey, the local Jewish Family Service said.

Some 150 neighborhood blocks in the city that are home to members of the Jewish community have been damaged in floods as part of the hurricane, the JFS said in a conference call with community leaders, the Texas Jewish Herald-Voice reported.

Many of the families affected by the floods also were flooded out in 2016 and 2015. Some of the families have flood insurance and others do not, according to the report.

The Evelyn Rubenstein JCC reported suffering flood damage. Prior to the hurricane it had collected emergency supplies and will serve as a distribution center for the community. The Jewish Family Service also reported flood damage, as did at least three Houston synagogues.

More rainfall and flooding are expected in the coming days.

The Jewish Federations of North America opened an emergency relief fund to support communities and individuals in Houston, San Antonio, Galveston, Corpus Christi and other areas in Texas that have been hammered by Hurricane Harvey.

Relief efforts are underway in the Jewish communities of southeastern Texas following the deadly Hurricane Harvey that slammed into Texas killing at least six people and causing widespread epic flooding.

Ahead of the storm, most area synagogues cancelled Shabbat services. The Evelyn Rubenstein Jewish Community Center of Houston closed Friday and remained closed Sunday due to safety concerns.

Several Jewish community members led a volunteer emergency response team, and performed rescue operations Saturday night and Sunday.

“It’s really bad here,” Jewish community rescue volunteer Jenelle Garner said, reported the Jewish Herald-Voice. “We might be forced to leave…”

Rabbi Gidon Moskovitz of the Meyerland Minyan said that over half of his congregation had “taken in water” up to five feet deep in their homes. Chabad-Lubavitch said that one its emissaries in Houston had taken in several people after they had become trapped by flooding after Shabbat.

“I am sad to report that many of our friends who flooded in the recent past are flooded once again, and there are many others who have never been flooded before,” says Rabbi Chaim Lazaroff, co-director of Chabad of Uptown with his wife, Chanie. “The rain is not stopping.”

The Houston area has been hard hit by flooding in recent years, but Saturday’s storm was by far the most widespread.

The Jewish Federation of Houston on its Facebook page posted Sunday, “Parts of our community have been impacted by the severe weather of the past two days. We are working with our partner agencies to assess the current situation in our community and determine priority on action items.”

“We are heartbroken to see the impact of the storm on our community,” the Jewish Federation of Greater Houston stated Sunday on its Facebook page, adding that it launched a donation page to collect funds for the community’s immediate needs.

The Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago started a relief fund to help victims of the devastating storm.

“We are in touch and working with the Jewish Federations of North America, NECHAMA: Jewish Response to Disaster, and local Jewish communities in the storm's path to gauge the scope of the damage as it unfolds and to quickly address specific needs of the Jewish and general communities,” the agency said in a statement.

Contributions to the Jewish Federation Hurricane Harvey Relief Fund can be made online at www.juf.org/HurricaneHarvey.
‘Story Songs’ at Thomases Gallery

“Story Songs” an exhibit of Bruce Pipman paintings with poetry by Dennis R. Kolakowski will be displayed in the Thomases Family Endowment of the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation Art Gallery from Sept. 28 through Nov. 15.

An opening reception takes place on Thursday, Sept. 28 from 5:30 – 7 p.m.

“Magic Realism” is a series of artworks that serve as metaphors for the nature of man. The works of the artist are primarily developed via acrylics, ink, and inspiration.

In his artist’s statement, Mr. Pipman says, “Insight starts with knowing yourself. The viewers complete the picture.

The viewer makes a personal interpretation of what they see.”

He says “My ideas are unique and original with humor and intelligence, decorative and very interesting to look at.

By expressing personal ideas, he says he is less concerned with observing tried and true approaches. “I believe that the truth in life lies beneath the surface and in my paintings I try to scratch at that surface.”

Mr. Pipman holds a bachelor’s degree in sociology from Kent State University. He worked as a consultant and recruiter in the technology and engineering fields with various companies in the region before retiring and devoting his time to painting.

Writer Dennis R. Kolakowski has had poems with paintings recently accepted/published at Poetry Pacific, Scarlet Leaf Review, Indiana Voice Journal, Oddville Press, Zombie Logic Review, and Summerset Review; short stories, essays and poetry published in the 70s and 80s, and has been screenwriting over the past ten years.

NY Jewish Museum shows Modigliani works

Opening September 2017, the Jewish Museum presents an exhibition of early drawings by Amedeo Modigliani—many of which are being shown for the first time in the United States. Acquired directly from the artist by Dr. Paul Alexandre, his close friend and first patron, these works illuminate Modigliani’s heritage as an Italian Sephardic Jew as pivotal to understanding his artistic output.

The exhibition will include approximately 150 works, those from the Alexandre collection as well as a selection of Modigliani’s paintings, sculptures, and other drawings from collections around the world. Modigliani’s art will be complemented by work representative of the various multicultural influences—African, Greek, Egyptian, and Khmer—that inspired the young artist during this lesser-known early period.

Among the works featured are a mysterious, unfinished portrait of Dr. Alexandre, never seen before in the United States; impressions of the theater; life studies and female nudes, among them the Russian poet Anna Akhmatovada.


Seated Female Nude, possibly Anna Akhmatova, c. 1911. Black crayon on paper.


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Happy and Healthy New Year!
Is a ‘smiley’ the same as a smile? — not at work

A new study has found that using a smiley in a work-related email to a stranger makes the recipient perceive the sender as less capable. “While an actual smile has a positive impact on creating an initial impression, adding a smiley can harm the person who included it in their email,” explains Dr. Arik Cheshin, one of the authors of the study.

Do you assume that adding a smiley to work-related emails can help you make a positive first impression? A new study has found that a smiley is not regarded the same way as a smile, and can actually have a negative impact on the initial impression created in formal work-related emails. “While an actual smile has a positive impact on creating an initial impression, adding a smiley can harm the person who included it in their email,” explains Dr. Arik Cheshin of the University of Haifa, one of the authors of the study.

In recent years, physical work meetings in offices have been replaced by email correspondence and online textual interactions. In these types of communication it is impossible to see facial expressions. Accordingly, people often try to create a positive first impression by using emojis, and particularly the smiley.

In the latest study, published in the journal Social Psychological and Personality Science, researchers Dr. Cheshin of the Department of Human Services at the University of Haifa, Dr. Ella Glikson of the Faculty of Management at Ben Gurion University, and Prof. Gerben van Kleef of Amsterdam University ran a series of four experiments to examine the impact of smileys in creating a first impression.

The participants – 549 people from 29 different countries – were asked to read work-related emails from someone they do not know. They were then asked to evaluate the competence and warmth of the person who sent the email. Some of the emails related to formal work matters, while others related to less formal aspects of work, such as an invitation to a party related to the workplace. The participants received similar texts, some of which included smileys while others did not, and some of which included a photograph of the sender smiling while in others the sender was not smiling. In the emails that did not include the sender’s photograph, it was impossible to determine their gender.

The findings show that when a photograph was included, a smiling sender was perceived as more competent and friendly. The researchers note that this is similar to the pattern seen in face-to-face interactions.

However, when emails on formal work-related matters included a smiley, the sender was perceived as less competent. The smiley did not influence the evaluation of the sender’s friendliness. In emails relating to less formal matters, the smiley led the sender to be perceived as more friendly, but did not influence the evaluation of competence.

The study also found that when the participants were asked to respond to emails on formal matters, their answers were more detailed and they included more content-related information when the email did not include a smiley.

The researchers sought to examine whether the inclusion of smileys influenced the perceived gender of the senders of the emails. They found that recipients were more likely to assume that the email was sent by a woman if it included a smiley, though this did not influence the evaluation of competence or friendliness.

“People tend to assume that a smiley is a virtual smile, but the findings of this study show that in the case of the workplace, at least as far as initial ‘encounters’ are concerned, this is incorrect. For now, at least, a smiley can only replace a smile when you already know the other person. In initial interactions, it is better to avoid using smileys, regardless of age or gender,” the researchers concluded.
In Memoriam

**Sophie Degan (née Sofia Henryka Muszkatblat)**

SALINE MI — Sophie Degan died early in the morning of Augt. 2017. She is mourned by her family and by many friends.

Sophie was 90 years old, and had an extraordinary life. Born in Warsaw on Oct. 12, 1926, daughter of Ruta and Boleslaw Muszkatblat, she also had a younger brother Stefan.

As a girl, she loved poetry and language, and she spoke many languages with zest. When the Germans occupied Poland, she and her family went to the Warsaw ghetto, where the rest of her family members died, were killed, or were sent to the camps where they perished.

At the age of 15, Sophie herself entered the camps. She was in fourteen camps, including Majdanek, Auschwitz, and Bergen-Belsen. She intended to write a memoir with a title that included the number she had in the camps, it was to be called Survivor A-13905.

At the end of the war, Sophie was liberated to Sweden, and eventually her Aunt Mary Okun in England found her through the Red Cross. She was liberated to Sweden, and eventually her Aunt Mary Okun in England found her through the Red Cross. She lived in England, then in Israel, where she was a sergeant in the army, and, eventually, came to the United States.

She spent many years in New York, where she worked for the UNESCO Publications Center; the Conference Group of U.S. National Organizations on the United Nations; and the National Council of Churches, Dept. of International Affairs.

She also finished a course of study at New York University. In New York, she lived with her greatest friend, Virginia “Ginny” Saurwein. Later, she moved to Washington D.C. where she worked as the executive director of the United Nations Association, Capital Area Division, and was honored at their annual Human Rights Day Luncheon in 1974.

She served on the U.S. Committee for International Women’s Year (1975), on the advisory committee for the D.C. Bicentennial City Celebration, and for two years on Mayor Barry’s UN Day Committee. After her years at the United Nations Association, Sophie ran her own business, Flag World International, Inc., selling flags it was never a comfortable fit. (Continued on p. 61)

**Sheila Elyse Goldich**

FLORAL PARK, NY — It is with great sadness that the family of the beautiful Sheila Elyse Goldich announces her passing after a long heroic battle with cancer.

Sheila lived life right up to the very end. She was larger than life. She affected people in a very unique way and those that knew her had the most loyal friend ever. She defended her family and friends at all costs with tremendous generosity and humor. She was truly one of a kind.

Sheila started her modeling and theatrical career at the age of 3. She was a cheerleader who brought great spirit to her team. She was confirmed at Rodef Sholem Temple, graduated from Cardinal Mooney High School, and received her Bachelor’s degree from the University of West Virginia. She was a sports fanatic, often sharing facts and statistics that were wise beyond her years.

In 1998, at the age of 21, she joined her father in the casino and junket rep business and became president four years later. She was the youngest and most successful female host, spanning a career of over 20 years. Her business was called Lucky Junkets. Those who really got to know Sheila were the lucky ones.

Early in life Sheila recognized how to live and made an impact on everyone she knew. Sheila was an amazing caregiver, and she was compassionate and generous with her time and heart.

When fate forced her to switch roles it was never a comfortable fit. Sheila wanted to make you feel better. Sheila was everyone’s pillar of strength.

Sheila was most proud of her important roles in this life. She was an amazing friend, sister, daughter, aunt, great-aunt, granddaughter, niece, and cousin. While she passed away too soon, she lived a very full life in a short span of time.

She will be lovingly remembered by her mother, Carole Goldich; brother Randy and sister-in-law Sandy Goldich and nieces Ashleigh and Gabbi; sister Linda and brother-in-law Dennis Rappaport nephew and niece Tony and Jacquelyn Rappaport and great nephew Tyler Rappaport; uncle Mickey and aunt Marlene Murphy; Sabrina and Sam Shapiro, who were like siblings; and her true blue friend, Jennifer D’Apolito; plus many loving cousins and friends.

She will be joining her devoted father, Stanley Goldich and beautiful sister, Kimberly Goldich.

“We will miss her dearly.”

The funeral took place on Sunday, Aug. 20, at Rodef Sholem Tod Cemetery Chapel in Youngstown.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to LiveOn-NY Foundation, 460W 34th St., 15th Floor, New York, NY 10001.

Arrangements were handled by the Higgins-Reardon Funeral Homes, Boardman-Canfield Chapel. Please visit www.higgins-reardon.com to view this obituary and to send condolences.
Fern Sacolick

COITSVILLE – Funeral services will be held at 1 p.m. on Friday at the Fox Funeral Home in Boardman for Fern B. Sacolick, 60, who passed away peacefully on Monday.

Fern was born March 27, 1957, a daughter of Eugene and Esther Davidson Sacolick.

She was a 1975 graduate of Boardman High School.

Fern was a member of Ohev Tzedek-Shaarei Torah Congregation. She had a great love for animals and enjoyed watching the Pittsburgh Steelers and NASCAR.

Besides her mother of Boardman, Fern leaves to cherish her memory, her sister, Shari M. Sacolick; brother Dr. Alan (Ruth) Sacolick of Columbus; nephew David; and niece Madison.

There are no calling hours.

Interment will take place at Ohev Tzedek Cemetery.

Memorial tributes can be made in Fern’s memory to Animal Charity Humane Society, 4140 Market St., Boardman, OH 44512.

Arrangements were made by the Fox Funeral Home in Boardman.

Family and friends may visit www.foxfuneralhome.org to view this obituary and to send condolences.

World’s oldest man, a Holocaust survivor in Israel, dies at 113

(JTA) — Yisrael Kristal, a Holocaust survivor from Haifa who was recognized by Guinness World Records as the oldest man in the world, has died, a month before his 114th birthday.

Haaretz reported that Kristal died Friday, Aug. 11.

Born on Sept. 15, 1903, in the town of Zarnow, Poland, Kristal moved to Lodz in 1920 to work in his family’s candy business. He continued operating the business after the Nazis forced the city’s Jews into a ghetto, where Kristal’s two children died. In 1944, he was deported to Auschwitz, where his wife, whom he had married at 25, was killed.

In 1950, he moved to Haifa with his second wife and their son, working again as a confectioner. In addition to his son and daughter, Kristal has numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Guiness recognized him as the world’s oldest living man in 2016. When asked at the time what his secret was to long life, Kristal said: “I don’t know the secret for long life. I believe that everything is determined from above and we shall never know the reasons why. There have been smarter, stronger and better-looking men than me who are no longer alive. All that is left for us to do is to keep on working as hard as we can and rebuild what is lost.”

Last year, when he turned 113, about 100 family members celebrated his bar mitzvah, a century after he missed it due to the upheavals of World War I.

Children of Israel Congregation

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Robert M. Rusnak

BOARDMAN — Robert M. Rusnak passed away after a brief illness on Aug. 27, 2017.

Robert was born in Cleveland, on Nov. 16, 1932, to Eugene and Esther (Friedman) Rusnak of Youngstown, and given the name Maurice. His older brother Jack mispronounced “baby” as “bobby” and the name “Bob” stuck with him for the next 84 years.

He is survived by his wife of 58 years, Florine (Fish); two sons, Stephen (Susan Bichsel) of Shaker Heights and Jeffrey (Suzanne Cushwa) of Cleveland Heights; four grandchildren, Julia, Eli, Katherine and Noah; sister-in-law Elayne Rusnak; brother-in-law Sandy Fish; and a host of loving nieces, nephews, grand-nieces and grand-nephews, cousins and dear friends.

Bob grew up on the south side of Youngstown and worked part time in his father’s grocery stores where he developed a strong work ethic passed down from his father. He graduated from Wilson High School in 1950, and Youngstown College in 1954, with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree.

He took great pride in the fact that he was a member of the first graduating class of ROTC at Youngstown College and was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant, stationed at Fort Bliss in Texas. Bob returned to Youngstown and worked as a salesman for the Taemarkin Company for the next 21 years.

Bob was an entrepreneur, starting a number of small businesses, including GOBY Barns yard storage sheds and Cartboard Advertising. He was a partner with his brother, Jack in Tri-County Mortgage Company, before founding Discount Cash Register and Store Equipment Company and operating it for the next 30 years. It was a small business for small businesses and Bob helped hundreds of retailers and restaurants get established in the Youngstown area. He loved his customers and clients and they returned their respect and friendship to him.

Bob was committed to and served his community in many ways. He was active in the Ohev Tzedek Congregation in Boardman, serving as a Sunday school teacher and youth group advisor and singing in the choir. He was on the temple’s Board of Directors for many years and served as president from 1970 to 1973.

Throughout his life, Bob appreciated Broadway musicals, Impressionist art, Mill Creek Park, cars, and ethnic foods. He remained a loyal Indians and Browns fan his entire life. In his later years he also enjoyed taking cruises with his wife and spending time with his grandchildren. He and his wife proudly supported The Butler Institute of American Art, Youngstown Symphony Society, and Fellows Riverside Gardens.

A memorial service for Bob was held at Congregation Ohev-Tzedek, 5245 Glenwood Ave. in Boardman on Tuesday.

The Shiva services and visitation will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday and Thursday evenings this week at the family home.

Donations in Bob’s memory may be made to Congregation Ohev Tzedek, 5245 Glenwood Ave. Youngstown, OH 44512; or to Fellows Riverside Gardens Mill Creek MetroPark, 123 McKinley Ave., Youngstown, OH 44509.

Heading south for the winter? Keep your Jewish Journal coming.

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Camp (cont’d from p. 46)

half an hour to wash cars for donations. The team that receives the most donation money wins the most points, and also decides which charity to donate all of the money to.

This year, the Green team won. Overall campers raised $655 in just two hours. The green team decided to donate the money to New Lease on Life Rescue in Struthers.

New Lease on Life is dedicated to reducing euthanasia rates in local pounds and shelters by saving the animals who are next on the euthanasia list and giving them a second opportunity to find happiness.

The campers’ carwash donation will support the Mozart’s orthopaedic surgery fund at the shelter.
Jerry Lewis

Lewis, best known for his starring role in “The Nutty Professor,” died Sunday morning at his home in Las Vegas, The Las Vegas Review Journal columnist John Katsilometes first reported. He was 91.

Though he was largely out of the movie industry by the end of the 1960s, Mr. Lewis continued to perform a comedy routine in Las Vegas, where he got his start in 1949, according to Variety.

Mr. Lewis was born Joseph Levitch to Borscht Belt entertainer parents Danny and Rae Levitch, who used the name Lewis when they appeared in small-time vaudeville and at Catskills resort hotels, according to The New York Times. Mr. Lewis, known as Joey when he was young, said the fact that his parents often left him in the care of his grandmother and aunts gave him a longstanding sense of insecurity and a need for attention.

Jerry Lewis began writing, producing and directing films in the late 1950s and 1960s. "Rock-a-Bye Baby" (1958), "The Geisha Boy" (1958) and "Cinderfella" (1960) were his first three films, and were directed by Lewis mentor Frank Tashlin. He wrote, directed and starred in the 1960 film "The Bellboy," his directorial debut.

The 1963 film "The Nutty Professor," in which the actor in a variation on "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde," played both the shy chemistry professor and a brash nightclub singer. At the end of his life, Mr. Lewis hoped to bring a musical adaptation of "The Nutty Professor" to Broadway.

He began hosting the annual Labor Day weekend Muscular Dystrophy Association telethon in 1966, remaining as host of the telethon and his beloved "Jerry's Kids" until 2010, raising more than $2 billion during those years.

He received the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts & Sciences' Jean Hersholt Humanitarian Award for his charitable activity in 2009. He has two stars on the Hollywood Walk of Fame — one for his movie work, the other for television.

Mr. Lewis, whose comedy style remained popular in France, was inducted by the French government into the Légion d’Honneur in 2006.

In 2015, the Library of Congress announced that it had acquired Mr. Lewis's personal archives. In a statement, he said, "Knowing that the Library of Congress was interested in acquiring my life's work was one of the biggest thrills of my life," according to The New York Times.

He had six sons with his first wife Patty Palmer, Gary, Ronnie, Scott, Anthony, Christopher and Joseph, who died in 2009. He is survived by his second wife, SanDee Pitnick, and their daughter.

Sophie Degan (continued from page 58)

flags nationally and internationally for 17 years.

She retired to Ann Arbor in 2006, and lived many good years at Lurie Terrace, before moving to her last residence at Story Point, where she died peacefully, surrounded by the mementos and photographs of rich years.

Sophie had a gift for friendship, and loved and was loved by many people. Although all her immediate family died in World War II, she was a cherished member of a larger extended family in the United States.

For the last 11 years she was cared for by her cousins Hilary Cohen, and the late Michael Cohen of Ann Arbor. She is also survived by Amy Cohen, Laura Helton, Hazel Cohen, and Zinnia Cohen, or Philadelphia; by Rachel Cohen, Matthew Boyle, her namesake Sylvia Boyle, and Tobias Boyle, of Chicago; by Stephanie and Mark Prieto, of Portland OR; Daniel Arnold, Ashley Laird, and Sage Laird, of Agness OR; by Patricia Kelvin, of Poland, OH; Taylor, Melissa, and Avi Leonard, of Bexley OH; by Alexander and Bozena Massey; and by Iwona Zankowska and Ben Dyczkowski, of New York.

In her last years, she was happy to be "honorary great-grandma" to Hazel, Zinnia, Sylvia, Tobias, Sage, and Avi.

Sophie loved animals and had a special relationship with them, especially with cats, and dolphins. Swimming with dolphins in Florida was a highlight of her later years, and she was always surrounded by cats, cat decorations, and sayings about cats.

She supported the United Nations, the Humane Society, the World Wildlife Federation, American Veterans, and organizations that helped refugees.

Some years ago, when a relative of hers died, Sophie sent a card of sympathy with a quotation from Henry David Thoreau: “Every blade in the field, every leaf in the forest, lays down its life in its season as beautifully as it was taken up.”
Can medical marijuana revive Israel’s kibbutz movement?

By Andrew Tobin

KIBBUTZ ELIFAZ, Israel (JTA) – By all accounts, Eilon Bdil has no personal interest in marijuana.

But as the business manager of Kibbutz Elifaz, he’s a big believer in the herb. Bdil sees medical marijuana as a unique opportunity to revive his remote Negev community.

“This cannabis gold rush has to pan out for us,” he said. “There’s simply no other choice. We need young people with good minds to come here, and medical cannabis is what can draw them.”

Elifaz is one of dozens of kibbutzim—and hundreds of local companies—seeking to join Israel’s new medical marijuana industry. After decades of stagnation, the collectives are betting that the move can revitalize their finances and even their way of life.

Israel’s gold rush—or “green rush,” as some are calling it—took off after the government in February threw its support behind legislation that would allow the export of medical marijuana. An inter-ministerial committee set up to explore the issue recently recommended favor of export, though Public Security Minister Gilad Erdan is opposed.

The Knesset is expected to pass the measure into law in the coming months. If that happens, Israeli companies would suddenly have access to a rapidly growing multibillion-dollar global industry.

Export is part of a larger government plan to make Israel a world leader in medical cannabis. Yuval Landschaft, the director of the Israeli Medical Cannabis Agency, said well over 700 companies have applied for official permission to grow, produce, distribute and dispense medical cannabis. By the end of the year, he said, the agency would give the OK to the first new medical marijuana farms and factories.

“We are really about to enter the medicalization of the Holy Land,” Mr. Landschaft said. “The Torah once spread out from Israel. Now medical cannabis will spread out from Israel.”

After playing a powerful role in founding and building Israel, the kibbutzim slid into social and economic crisis during the national financial crisis of the 1980s. Many young members decamped for the cities. By shifting away from their socialist roots—embracing differential salaries, members working off the kibbutz and non-members working on it—the kibbutzim, which number about 250, have largely stabilized. Many are looking for new investments.

Eilon Bdil overlooking Kibbutz Elifaz, Israel

Elifaz, located in the Arava Desert valley in southern Israel, is the only kibbutz that is already growing medical marijuana. It is one of just eight farms the government licensed to do so in 2010 as part of a limited system that will be replaced by the new one. (Recreational marijuana use is illegal in Israel, though it was recently largely decriminalized.)

So far, the medical marijuana business has not been particularly lucrative for Elifaz’s more than 100 members and children. The vast majority of its income still comes from date and pomelo farming and tourism. Just last year, the kibbutz began paying differential salaries to its members, a reform most of the once rigidly collective communities have made.

But Mr. Bdil, 42, who was born on Elifaz and returned to raise a family here, expects the years of experience to pay off when the exporting of medical marijuana starts. He said Elifaz also would benefit from its close ties with other kibbutzim. In the same way the kibbutz produces date honey and date liquor as part of a kibbutz conglomerate, Bdil said, it would one day manufacture cannabis products like extracts, creams and oils.

According to Nir Lobel, 37, Elifaz’s secretary, the kibbutz voted to get into the medical cannabis business in part because it seemed like a natural way to update the traditional kibbutz ethos—and hopefully attract a new generation of members.

“We’re pioneers, and this is a new journey. We’re farmers, and this is agriculture. We care about values, and this is a way to help people who are suffering,” he said.

However, Hagai Hillman—one of Israel’s eight licensed cannabis growers, who co-owns a marijuana-centered

(Continued on next page)
Future for Kibbutzim (cont’d from previous page)

pharmaceutical company called BOL Pharma — says most of the kibbutzim and companies rushing into the industry are being overly optimistic.

“For those kibbutzim that don’t have money, medical cannabis is not going to be the answer. To survive in this market you need very deep pockets, and without vertical integration you’re lost,” he said, suggesting that profitable companies will control the medical marijuana supply chain from farm to pharmacy.

“A lot of farmers think it’s like growing melons. But the future of this industry is medicalization.”

Kibbutz Gezer, a largely American immigrant community located south of Tel Aviv, is exploring joining Elifaz in a medical cannabis business partnership with an Israeli pharmaceutical company. Laura Spector, a 62-year-old New Jersey native who immigrated to the kibbutz in 1977, is a leader of the project.

Ms. Spector said Gezer had only recently paid off the debt that it, like most kibbutzim, racked up during the Israeli financial crisis in the 1980s, and was ready to invest. She shares Bdir’s interest in making a principled profit.

“I believe in medical marijuana because I believe in the plant, which can help in so many different ways,” she said. “At the same time, I think there will be a huge financial advantage to Kibbutz Gezer.”

According to Ms. Spector, Gezer’s main asset is its land, which is located in the center of the country and is licensed for mixed use. As such, it would be relatively easy to build processing facilities near the crops — a major advantage many kibbutzim have over other farms.

In contrast with Elifaz, Gezer is not motivated by a need for more members. The kibbutz is about 240 strong and expanding. It is building 16 houses for the founders’ children and new members, with plans to add 22 more in the coming years.

Rather, Ms. Spector said, she wants Gezer to enter the medical marijuana industry to create communal employment opportunities. For young people, the business could mean a career close to home, and for pensioners, it could provide the purpose and extra income of part-time work, she said.

“I was one of the people who pushed privatization on the kibbutz, but I think there’s a certain social and economic spirit that we should keep in some ways,” Ms. Spector said. “I mean, we came here for a reason.”

Few kibbutzim embody the spirit of the movement better than Kibbutz Ruhama, which was established near the border of the Gaza Strip in 1943, several years before the State of Israel’s founding. Today, the kibbutz’s main business is the struggling KR Hamivreshet brush factory, and most of its some 200 members are of retirement age.

According to kibbutz secretary Ran Ferdman, a 40-year-old third generation member, Ruhama voted overwhelmingly to partner with researchers to enter the medical marijuana industry, mostly in hopes of filling up their pensions funds, which were emptied during the kibbutz debt crisis.

“They believed the kibbutz would exist forever, and the younger generation would take care of the older one,” he said. “But everyone has to take care of himself these days.”

Tennis (cont’d from p. 21)

The program won a grant and was able to recruit 40 volunteers along with two tennis coaches and one fitness motivation coach. Amy says that “when you embark on a project like this, everyone wants to help. It’s tough to say no to something like this.”

By the end of the five weeks, every volunteer was moved by the sight of happy, healthy children blooming with self-confidence and who could not wait to get back on the court. Ms. Hendricks explains: “In a city, with a high poverty rate and a public school system in difficulty, it can be a rare sight to see children believing in themselves, and that’s why programs like this are desperately needed.”

The program has seen so much success that even more kids are coming to the JCC with the hopes of learning how to play tennis. Ms. Hendricks now wants to make the program year-long and replicate the ITC model, with after school tutoring sessions, girl-empowerment programs and of course, food. She wants to take these steps slowly, though, to ensure that they get it right for the children.

Nonviolence (cont’d from page 22)

be an evening with Little Rock 9’s Minniejean Brown Trickey on Oct. 2 sponsored by St. Patrick Church and Flambeau’s on Market Street.

Also scheduled are a presentation by the Sandy Hook Promise organization in Youngstown and Liberty and a nonviolence evening at Barnes and Noble in Boardman on Wed., Oct. 4, with book reading, art, and a performance by the Youngstown Connection.

The weeklong celebration was launched seven years ago by Youngstown high-school students who were members of the Mahoning Valley Sojourn to the Past, organized by retired city teacher Penny Wells.

As part of that project, they formed legislation to create “Ohio Nonviolence Week” which was signed into law by Gov. John Kasich.

To register or learn more, visit OhioNonviolenceWeek.org or contact Sarah Wilschek at SarahWilschek@JewishYoungstown.org or 330 746-3250 x 123.
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